Beyond One Person

Sort setbacks by what causes them and whom they affect.

S.5.4 "Describe social problems and distinguish between characteristics of a social problem versus an individual problem."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SOCIAL PROBLEM

A social problem affects groups of people because of shared conditions, policies, or institutions. Addressing it usually takes action beyond one person.

Stairs at many public buildings limit access for wheelchair users.

INDIVIDUAL PROBLEM

An individual problem concerns one person's particular situation, with no sign that a shared condition is causing it.

A cyclist gets a flat tire after riding over a nail.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle SOCIAL or INDIVIDUAL for each numbered situation, then pick two items and explain the clue that guided each choice.

1.	A city's aging water pipes contaminate drinking water in many neighborhoods.	SOCIAL INDIVIDUAL
2.	One student misses the bus after sleeping through an alarm.	SOCIAL INDIVIDUAL
3.	One person's headphones break after being dropped.	SOCIAL INDIVIDUAL
4.	Rents rise across a region, forcing many households to move.	SOCIAL INDIVIDUAL
5.	Several neighborhoods lack grocery stores because of long-term disinvestment.	SOCIAL INDIVIDUAL
6.	A state policy leaves thousands of part-time workers without paid sick leave.	SOCIAL INDIVIDUAL
7.	One person loses a house key during a walk.	SOCIAL INDIVIDUAL
8.	A student forgets to save a file and loses an essay draft.	SOCIAL INDIVIDUAL

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new example of a social problem and one new example of an individual problem.

SOCIAL _____

INDIVIDUAL _____

CHALLENGE

Write a situation that could be either kind of problem, then name one piece of evidence that would help you decide and explain why.

Beyond One Person

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A city's aging water pipes contaminate drinking water in many neighborhoods.	**SOCIAL**	Shared infrastructure puts many neighborhoods at risk.
2	One student misses the bus after sleeping through an alarm.	**INDIVIDUAL**	The missed bus results from this student's particular action.
3	One person's headphones break after being dropped.	**INDIVIDUAL**	An isolated accident caused the damage.
4	Rents rise across a region, forcing many households to move.	**SOCIAL**	A regional housing condition affects many households.
5	Several neighborhoods lack grocery stores because of long-term disinvestment.	**SOCIAL**	A shared economic condition limits access across neighborhoods.
6	A state policy leaves thousands of part-time workers without paid sick leave.	**SOCIAL**	One policy affects a large group of workers.
7	One person loses a house key during a walk.	**INDIVIDUAL**	Losing the key is a particular person's setback.
8	A student forgets to save a file and loses an essay draft.	**INDIVIDUAL**	The lost draft results from this student's particular action.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SOCIAL**: A county's public buses stop running before evening shifts end, leaving many workers without transportation.
- **INDIVIDUAL**: A runner strains an ankle after stepping in a hole.

Challenge: A student cannot connect to the internet at home. Evidence that many households in the area lack service because providers do not serve them would show a social problem.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a shared cause or a particular setback. The number of people mentioned alone is not enough to establish the cause.