Where Does It Fit?

Sort ways people take part in public life.

USG.C.8.2 "Define civic virtue and explain the individual's duty and responsibility to participate in civic life. Distinguish among the civic life, political life, and private life of citizens. Examine how components of civil society (e.g...."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CIVIC LIFE	POLITICAL LIFE
Civic actions strengthen a community or meet shared needs without aiming to change government decisions. A choir volunteers to perform for hospital patients.	Political actions help choose government leaders or influence laws and public decisions. A shop owner testifies at a city council hearing about zoning rules.

1 SORT

8 items

In Part 1, circle CIVIC or POLITICAL for each item; in Part 2, choose one item from each category and explain how you knew where each belonged.

1.	A resident organizes a creek cleanup with local volunteers.	CIVIC POLITICAL
2.	Students collect winter coats for a shelter.	CIVIC POLITICAL
3.	A citizen registers to vote in a government election.	CIVIC POLITICAL
4.	A candidate runs for a seat in the state legislature.	CIVIC POLITICAL
5.	A neighborhood group hosts a free cooking class.	CIVIC POLITICAL
6.	A volunteer phones voters to support a ballot measure.	CIVIC POLITICAL
7.	A worker delivers groceries through a volunteer mutual-aid group.	CIVIC POLITICAL
8.	Teens mentor younger kids at a nonprofit sports program.	CIVIC POLITICAL

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 civic life and one new example of political life.

CIVIC _____

POLITICAL _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one civic item from Part 1 and explain how it could become political if its goal changed; name the item number and the new goal.

ANSWER KEY

Where Does It Fit?

HIGH SCHOOL · USG.C.8.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A resident organizes a creek cleanup with local volunteers.	**CIVIC**	The cleanup meets a community need without seeking government action.
2	Students collect winter coats for a shelter.	**CIVIC**	The collection helps people in the community without seeking government action.
3	A citizen registers to vote in a government election.	**POLITICAL**	Registration prepares the citizen to choose government leaders.
4	A candidate runs for a seat in the state legislature.	**POLITICAL**	Running for office is an attempt to take part in government.
5	A neighborhood group hosts a free cooking class.	**CIVIC**	The class serves the community without seeking government action.
6	A volunteer phones voters to support a ballot measure.	**POLITICAL**	The calls aim to influence a public vote.
7	A worker delivers groceries through a volunteer mutual-aid group.	**CIVIC**	Mutual aid meets a shared need without seeking government action.
8	Teens mentor younger kids at a nonprofit sports program.	**CIVIC**	Mentoring supports community members without seeking government 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)

- **CIVIC**: A family stocks a community food pantry.
- **POLITICAL**: A citizen asks a senator to oppose a bill.

Challenge: Item 1 could become political if the volunteers urged the county commission to pass a law limiting pollution in the creek.

For Part 2, acceptable explanations identify each action's goal. For example, Item 2 meets a community need without seeking government action, while Item 3 prepares a citizen to choose government leaders.