Community or Government?

Sort actions by what they aim to change.

USG.C.8 "Evaluate the significance of civic participation in order to ensure the preservation of constitutional government. Explain the constitutional and legal provisions that establish and affect citizenship..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CIVIC LIFE	POLITICAL LIFE
People work with others to improve community life without trying to change an election or a government decision.	People act to choose leaders or to monitor or influence government decisions.
Neighbors organize a free bicycle-repair day for families.	A resident asks the city council to change a zoning rule.

1 SORT

8 items

For each item, circle Civic life or Political life; for Part 2, choose one item from each category and explain how you knew where it belongs.

1.	Residents organize a weekend food pantry.	CIVIC POLITICAL
2.	Students collect winter coats for a local shelter.	CIVIC POLITICAL
3.	A voter researches candidates before an election.	CIVIC POLITICAL
4.	Neighbors start a reading group for local families.	CIVIC POLITICAL
5.	A citizen petitions the state legislature to change a law.	CIVIC POLITICAL
6.	A journalist requests federal agency records using the Freedom of Information Act.	CIVIC POLITICAL
7.	Volunteers remove litter from a creek bank.	CIVIC POLITICAL
8.	A citizen works on a candidate's campaign.	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. Label each example.

CIVIC _____

POLITICAL _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one community problem. Describe one civic-life action and one political-life action that could address it, and explain why each fits its category.

ANSWER KEY

Community or Government?

HIGH SCHOOL · USG.C.8

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Residents organize a weekend food pantry.	**CIVIC**	They provide a community service without seeking government action.
2	Students collect winter coats for a local shelter.	**CIVIC**	They help people in the community without trying to affect government.
3	A voter researches candidates before an election.	**POLITICAL**	The voter is preparing to choose government leaders.
4	Neighbors start a reading group for local families.	**CIVIC**	They build community connections without seeking a government decision.
5	A citizen petitions the state legislature to change a law.	**POLITICAL**	The petition seeks to influence a government decision.
6	A journalist requests federal agency records using the Freedom of Information Act.	**POLITICAL**	The request helps monitor a government agency.
7	Volunteers remove litter from a creek bank.	**CIVIC**	They improve a shared space without asking government to act.
8	A citizen works on a candidate's campaign.	**POLITICAL**	Campaign work aims to influence an election.

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**: Civic life: Residents host a free first-aid workshop at a community center.
- **POLITICAL**: Political life: A citizen speaks at a school board meeting to oppose a proposed budget cut.

Challenge: To address unsafe crosswalks, neighbors could teach children how to cross busy streets, a civic-life action that helps the community without asking government to act. They could also ask the city to install a crossing signal, a political-life action because it seeks a government decision.

For Part 2, accept an accurate explanation for any one item from each category. For example, item 2 directly helps people, while item 5 seeks to change a law.