

Who Gives Power?

How people give government leaders permission to lead

3.8.B "describe the concept of "consent of the governed. ""

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each sentence that tells a way people can choose or change leaders. This shows how the people give consent to be governed.

Permission to Lead

- ① In a government, people need a say in who leads them. This idea is called consent of the governed. Consent means giving permission or agreement. Governed means the people who are led by a government. When people choose leaders through fair elections, they give those leaders permission to make public decisions for a time in their community.
- ② Imagine that a town needs a new rule for its busy park. Residents vote in an election for town council members. The winners listen to residents and vote on the park rule. The council has power because people chose its members. If residents dislike a decision, they can speak at meetings and vote in later elections.
- ③ Consent of the governed does not mean every person gets the exact choice they wanted. People may disagree with a rule or a leader. Still, they can use peaceful ways to share ideas, such as writing to leaders, attending meetings, or voting. Elections that happen again and again let people keep, change, or replace leaders. This helps government answer to the people it serves.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does consent of the governed mean?

2 Why does the town council have power to vote on the park rule?

3 Name two peaceful ways residents can respond if they dislike a decision.

4 How do elections that happen again and again help government answer to the people?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Make up a school club example. Write three sentences that tell how members choose leaders, how the leaders listen to members, and how members could choose different leaders later.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each sentence that tells a way people can choose or change leaders. This shows how the people give consent to be governed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does consent of the governed mean?	It means that people give government leaders permission or agreement to lead and make public decisions.
2	Why does the town council have power to vote on the park rule?	The council has power because the people chose its members in an election.
3	Name two peaceful ways residents can respond if they dislike a decision.	Residents can speak at meetings, write to leaders, or vote in later elections.
4	How do elections that happen again and again help government answer to the people?	People can keep, change, or replace leaders through later elections.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At my school club, members vote for club leaders. The leaders ask members which activities they want and share the ideas with the teacher. At the next election, members can choose different leaders if the leaders do not listen.

Accept answers that explain that leaders get their authority from the people and can be changed through elections. For the open response, accept any realistic school club situation with member choice, leader listening, and a later way to choose different leaders.