

People and Power

Read for document purpose and the power of the people.

3.8 "Government. The student understands important ideas in historical documents at various levels of government. The student is expected to: identify the purposes of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three sentences that tell the purposes of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Circle the sentence that defines consent of the governed.

Three Important Documents

- ① In 1776, leaders from thirteen colonies wrote the Declaration of Independence. Its purpose was to announce that the colonies were separating from Great Britain. The document also explained why the leaders thought this change was fair. It said people have rights, such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Governments should protect those rights.
- ② Eleven years later, the U.S. Constitution set up a new national government. Its purpose was to explain how the government would work and what powers it would have. The first ten amendments to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights. They protect important freedoms, including speaking freely, practicing a religion, and having a fair trial.
- ③ Consent of the governed means that a government's power comes from the people it serves. In the United States, citizens who can vote choose leaders in elections. Those leaders make laws and decisions for the people. If voters disagree, they can vote for different leaders in a later election. This helps people give or withhold consent.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What was one purpose of the Declaration of Independence?

2 How was the purpose of the U.S. Constitution different from the purpose of the Declaration of Independence?

3 Name two freedoms protected by the Bill of Rights in the passage.

4 What does consent of the governed mean? Give one way people can give or withhold consent.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine that your town will govern itself. Write four sentences: tell why the town will govern itself, state one rule for how leaders will work, name one freedom leaders must protect, and explain how people will choose or replace leaders.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the three sentences that tell the purposes of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Circle the sentence that defines consent of the governed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What was one purpose of the Declaration of Independence?	It announced that the colonies were separating from Great Britain. It also explained why the leaders thought separation was fair.
2	How was the purpose of the U.S. Constitution different from the purpose of the Declaration of Independence?	The Constitution explained how the new government would work and what powers it would have. The Declaration announced separation from Great Britain and explained the reasons.
3	Name two freedoms protected by the Bill of Rights in the passage.	Answers include speaking freely, practicing a religion, and having a fair trial.
4	What does consent of the governed mean? Give one way people can give or withhold consent.	It means government power comes from the people. People can vote to choose leaders or vote for different leaders in a later election.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Riverside will govern itself so its people can make decisions for their town. Leaders will meet each month and make rules for the town. People may speak freely about town rules. Every two years, voters will choose leaders or choose different leaders.

Accept equivalent descriptions of each document's purpose and of consent of the governed. For the open response, accept reasonable town rules, protected freedoms, and a clear voting method for choosing or replacing leaders.