

Community Voices

Read how people choose to improve their local and state communities.

4.15.B “explain how individuals can participate voluntarily in civic affairs at state and local levels through activities such as respectfully holding public officials to their word, writing letters...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline any four actions people choose to take in civic affairs, then number the actions 1 through 4. This will help you notice different ways people can take part in their community.

Neighbors Take Part

- ① At a Brookdale city council meeting, residents remembered a promise to add safe crosswalk signs near the library. Maya chose to speak during public comment. She politely asked when the signs would be installed. The council member explained the schedule and said residents could check back next month. By asking respectfully, Maya helped hold a local official to a public promise.
- ② Later, students noticed that rain was damaging the roof of the old county courthouse. The building held local records and stories. Each student wrote a letter to the state representative, asking for support for repair funds. They described why the courthouse mattered and used respectful words. Writing a letter gave the representative a chance to hear their ideas.
- ③ On Saturday, volunteers worked with the county historical society at the old train depot. Some carefully scanned photographs and recorded elders' stories, helping preserve the town's history. Others joined a service project at the nearby riverbank, picking up litter and planting native flowers. No one was required to join. By giving time and care, the volunteers helped their local community.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What promise did Maya ask the city council about, and how did she ask?

2 Which state official did the students write to, and what did they ask for?

3 How did the volunteers at the train depot help preserve local history?

4 What made the riverbank work a service project? Name two tasks the volunteers did.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one local or state plan that matters to your community. Write a three-sentence respectful letter to a public official that reminds the official of the plan, explains why it matters, and asks when the work will begin.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline any four actions people choose to take in civic affairs, then number the actions 1 through 4. This will help you notice different ways people can take part in their community. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What promise did Maya ask the city council about, and how did she ask?	She asked about the promised crosswalk signs near the library. She spoke politely during public comment.
2	Which state official did the students write to, and what did they ask for?	They wrote to the state representative. They asked for support for funds to repair the courthouse roof.
3	How did the volunteers at the train depot help preserve local history?	They scanned photographs and recorded elders' stories.
4	What made the riverbank work a service project? Name two tasks the volunteers did.	The volunteers gave their time to help the community. They picked up litter and planted native flowers.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear City Council Member, you said the playground would get a new swing set this spring. Families need a safe place to play. Please tell our neighborhood when the work will begin.

Accept equivalent details from the passage for Questions 1 through 4. For the letter, accept a clear three-sentence message that respectfully refers to a local or state plan, gives a reason, and asks for an update.