

Leading the Republic

Read about national leaders, parties, and leadership choices.

5.18 "Citizenship. The student understands the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. The student is expected to: identify past and present leaders in the national government..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each national leader's name, circle each political party name or the words "no political party," and number three leadership qualities you find. Your marks will help you track who leads and how leaders serve citizens.

Leaders Then and Now

- ① In a constitutional republic, people elect representatives, and leaders must follow the Constitution. A president leads the executive branch, while members of Congress make laws in the legislative branch. Political parties are groups with ideas about government. Knowing a leader's office and party helps citizens understand who is making decisions, but citizens can also judge how responsibly that leader serves.
- ② As of 2026, President Donald Trump is a Republican and leads the executive branch. In Congress, Representative Mike Johnson of Louisiana, a Republican, is Speaker of the House. Senator John Thune of South Dakota, a Republican, is Senate majority leader. Representative Hakeem Jeffries of New York, a Democrat, is House Democratic leader. These leaders have different jobs, but each must listen, explain decisions, and work with others.
- ③ Past leaders also show important qualities. George Washington, who had no political party, served as the first president. He showed responsibility by stepping down after two terms, helping establish peaceful transfers of power. Barbara Jordan, a Democrat from Texas, served in the U.S. House of Representatives. During the 1974 impeachment hearings, her carefully prepared speech showed courage, respect for the Constitution, and clear communication.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What office does President Donald Trump hold, and what political party is he in?

2 Choose one member of Congress from paragraph 2. Write the leader's name, state, job, and political party.

3 What three qualities does the passage say current leaders must show as they do their jobs?

4 Name the two past leaders in the passage. For each leader, give the party information and one action or quality that shows leadership.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a past or present national leader who is not named in the passage. Write three sentences that identify the leader, office, and political party, if the leader had one. Explain two leadership qualities and include a fact that supports them.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each national leader's name, circle each political party name or the words "no political party," and number three leadership qualities you find. Your marks will help you track who leads and how leaders serve citizens. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What office does President Donald Trump hold, and what political party is he in?	He is president and a Republican.
2	Choose one member of Congress from paragraph 2. Write the leader's name, state, job, and political party.	Answers include: Mike Johnson, Louisiana, Speaker of the House, Republican; John Thune, South Dakota, Senate majority leader, Republican; or Hakeem Jeffries, New York, House Democratic leader, Democrat.
3	What three qualities does the passage say current leaders must show as they do their jobs?	They must listen, explain decisions, and work with others.
4	Name the two past leaders in the passage. For each leader, give the party information and one action or quality that shows leadership.	George Washington had no political party and showed responsibility by stepping down after two terms. Barbara Jordan was a Democrat and showed courage, respect for the Constitution, and clear communication through her prepared speech.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Representative John Lewis of Georgia was a Democrat who served in the U.S. House. He showed courage and persistence as a national leader. He marched for voting rights in Selma and continued working for civil rights during his years in Congress.

Accept equivalent descriptions of offices, parties, actions, and leadership qualities when they match the passage. For the open response, accept accurate examples of national leaders not named in the passage that include the required information and supporting fact.