

# Rights in Action

Read how the Bill of Rights protects citizens.

**5.19** "Citizenship. The student understands the fundamental rights of American citizens guaranteed in the Bill of Rights. The student is expected to describe the fundamental rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, including freedom of religion..."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each phrase that names a right protected by the Bill of Rights. Number the eight rights you find, so you can compare how they protect freedoms and people in court.

### Protections for Citizens

- ① The Bill of Rights is the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution. It protects important freedoms and helps limit government power. The First Amendment protects freedom of religion, speech, and press. People may practice a religion or no religion, share ideas, and publish news or opinions, while still following laws that protect others' rights and safety.
- ② Citizens can meet peacefully with others to support a cause. This is the right to assemble. They can also ask government leaders to change a rule or solve a problem. This is the right to petition the government. The Second Amendment protects the right to keep and bear arms. Like other rights, this right has laws and court decisions that guide how it is used.
- ③ If a person is accused of a crime, the Bill of Rights provides important protections in the justice system. In many criminal cases, the person has the right to a trial by jury. A jury listens to evidence and helps decide the case. The person also has the right to an attorney, a lawyer who gives legal advice and speaks for the person in court.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** Which three freedoms does the passage say the First Amendment protects?

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**2** How does the right to assemble differ from the right to petition the government?

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**3** What does the passage say guides how the right to keep and bear arms is used?

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**4** In a criminal case, how can a jury and an attorney each help a person accused of a crime?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Write a three-sentence situation that uses two Bill of Rights rights. Name each right and explain how it protects the person or group in your situation.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline each phrase that names a right protected by the Bill of Rights. Number the eight rights you find, so you can compare how they protect freedoms and people in court. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                  | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Which three freedoms does the passage say the First Amendment protects?                   | <b>Freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of press.</b>                                                                                                                    |
| 2 | How does the right to assemble differ from the right to petition the government?          | <b>The right to assemble is the right to meet peacefully with others for a cause. The right to petition is the right to ask government leaders to change a rule or solve a problem.</b> |
| 3 | What does the passage say guides how the right to keep and bear arms is used?             | <b>Laws and court decisions guide how the right is used.</b>                                                                                                                            |
| 4 | In a criminal case, how can a jury and an attorney each help a person accused of a crime? | <b>A jury listens to evidence and helps decide the case. An attorney gives legal advice and speaks for the person in court.</b>                                                         |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

On Saturday, Ava's family attends a worship service, and Ava writes a newspaper article about its food drive. Her family uses freedom of religion, while Ava uses freedom of press. These rights protect practicing beliefs and publishing information.

Accept accurate situations that clearly use two rights named in the passage and explain each protection. Students may choose any two of the eight marked rights.