

Citizens in Action

Trace how rights, responsibilities, and duties work together.

6.12.B “explain relationships among rights, responsibilities, and duties in societies with representative governments.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each right, circle each responsibility, and number each duty in the passage so you can compare how each one supports a representative government.

A Decision in Riverbend

- ① At a Riverbend town council meeting, elected members discuss whether to repair the library roof. In a representative government, citizens elect people to make many public decisions. Citizens still have rights, including the right to vote, speak at public meetings, and share opinions peacefully. These rights give people ways to influence representatives. A right is a freedom or protection that the government must respect. Using a right can help a citizen take part in public life, but a person may choose whether to use many rights.
- ② Responsibilities are actions citizens are expected to take because they strengthen the community and its government. For example, a resident might learn about the roof proposal, listen to different views, and speak respectfully during the meeting. These actions are usually choices, not legal requirements. When citizens act responsibly, representatives receive better information about what people need. Citizens also have duties, which are obligations required by law or by a public role. Paying taxes, obeying laws, and serving on a jury when called are common civic duties.
- ③ Rights, responsibilities, and duties work together, but they are not the same. Rights protect citizens' ability to participate and express ideas. Responsibilities guide citizens to use that freedom thoughtfully, such as checking facts before sharing a claim about the roof project. Duties support the system by requiring people to follow laws and contribute to public services. Citizens can hold representatives accountable by voting, asking questions, speaking publicly, and using other rights. The council members, in turn, must listen to residents and follow the law while making decisions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the passage describe the difference between a right and a responsibility? Give one example of each from the passage.

2 How can responsible actions by citizens affect the decisions representatives make?

3 What is a civic duty, and how do duties support the government system? Use two duties from the passage in your answer.

4 Which actions in the passage help citizens hold representatives accountable, and what separate purpose do duties serve?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine representatives are deciding whether to add a crosswalk near a school. Write four sentences that name one right you could use, one responsibility you could choose, and one duty connected to living in the community. Explain how they work together in a representative government.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each right, circle each responsibility, and number each duty in the passage so you can compare how each one supports a representative government. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the passage describe the difference between a right and a responsibility? Give one example of each from the passage.	A right is a freedom or protection the government must respect, such as voting or speaking at a public meeting. A responsibility is an expected action that strengthens the community, such as learning about an issue or listening to different views.
2	How can responsible actions by citizens affect the decisions representatives make?	Responsible citizens give representatives better information about what people need, which can help representatives make decisions.
3	What is a civic duty, and how do duties support the government system? Use two duties from the passage in your answer.	A civic duty is an obligation required by law or by a public role. Duties such as paying taxes, obeying laws, or serving on a jury support the system by requiring people to follow laws and contribute to public services.
4	Which actions in the passage help citizens hold representatives accountable, and what separate purpose do duties serve?	Voting, asking questions, speaking publicly, and using other rights help citizens hold representatives accountable. Duties support the government system by requiring people to follow laws and contribute to public services.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I could speak at a public meeting about a crosswalk near the school. I would responsibly learn how students and drivers would be affected before I speak. I would also obey traffic laws near the school, which is a civic duty. My right lets me share an idea, while my responsibility and duty help the community make and follow safe decisions.

Accept accurate passage-based examples and explanations that distinguish rights as protected freedoms, responsibilities as expected choices, and duties as required obligations. For the open response, accept reasonable community examples if the student clearly explains how all three are related but different.