

Voices and Duties

How people participate and protect one another in representative government

6.12 "Citizenship. The student understands the relationship among individual rights, responsibilities, duties, and freedoms in societies with representative governments..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each right or freedom in the passage, circle each civic participation or civic duty action, and number the three sentences that show how people, representatives, and laws work together. Your marks will help you explain how rights, responsibilities, duties, and freedoms are connected.

A Safer Way to the Library

- ① In the city of Riverside, a busy street separated many students from the public library. Residents could speak at a city council meeting, write to council members, or vote when council seats were up for election. These actions are civic participation, taking part in public decisions. The elected council members represent people in their districts. They listen to different views, study the issue, and vote on rules and spending for the city. Their decisions affect everyone who uses public services.
- ② People in Riverside have rights and freedoms, such as peacefully sharing an opinion about the crossing and receiving equal treatment under the law. A right gives a protected claim, while a freedom allows people to act or speak within the law. These protections work best when people also act responsibly. For example, a speaker should use accurate information, listen to others, and respect people who disagree. Responsibility means making choices that protect the rights and safety of other people.
- ③ Some civic duties are required by law, such as obeying laws, paying taxes a person owes, and serving when called for jury duty. Civic participation also includes learning about candidates, voting, and contacting representatives. These actions help a representative government respond to the public. For the crossing, residents asked the council to add a marked crosswalk. Council members considered the request and approved funding. Residents then followed the new traffic rules, helping protect each person's freedom to travel safely.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is civic participation? Name two ways Riverside residents can participate in public decisions.

2 According to the passage, how is a right different from a freedom?

3 Name two responsible actions a speaker should take. How do these actions protect other people?

4 How did residents, council members, and traffic rules work together to protect freedom at the crossing?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a public issue at school or in your community. In four sentences, name one connected right or freedom, one responsibility or duty, one way people can participate, and how a representative could respond.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each right or freedom in the passage, circle each civic participation or civic duty action, and number the three sentences that show how people, representatives, and laws work together. Your marks will help you explain how rights, responsibilities, duties, and freedoms are connected. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is civic participation? Name two ways Riverside residents can participate in public decisions.	Civic participation is taking part in public decisions. Residents can speak at a city council meeting, write to council members, or vote in council elections.
2	According to the passage, how is a right different from a freedom?	A right is a protected claim. A freedom allows people to act or speak within the law.
3	Name two responsible actions a speaker should take. How do these actions protect other people?	A speaker should use accurate information, listen to others, and respect people who disagree. These actions protect other people's rights and safety.
4	How did residents, council members, and traffic rules work together to protect freedom at the crossing?	Residents participated by asking the council for a marked crosswalk. Council members considered the request and approved funding. Residents then followed the traffic rules, which helped protect each person's freedom to travel safely.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Neighbors want the city to repair a broken playground. They have the freedom to share their views at a council meeting, and they have a responsibility to listen respectfully to other ideas. Residents can contact their council member and vote for candidates who address safety. The council member can bring the concern to the council, which can vote on repair funding.

Accept equivalent passage-based wording for the short answers. For the open response, accept a realistic public issue that clearly connects a right or freedom, a responsibility or duty, civic participation, and a representative response.