

Texas Civic Choices

Responsibilities and participation strengthen public life.

7.15.B "explain civic responsibilities of Texas citizens and the importance of civic participation."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline civic responsibilities and circle ways Texans can participate in public life. This shows how duties and participation work together to support Texas communities.

Doing Your Part in Texas

- ① Texas citizenship includes responsibilities that help communities work fairly and safely. Residents must follow laws, respect other people's rights, and pay taxes required by state and local governments. Taxes support services such as public schools, roads, courts, and emergency response. Eligible citizens who receive a jury summons must report or follow the court's instructions. Jurors listen to evidence and help decide cases. These responsibilities are shared work, because a community depends on people following rules and helping public institutions operate.
- ② Participation gives Texans a way to influence public decisions. A United States citizen who is at least 18 years old and registered to vote in Texas may vote in elections. Voters can learn about candidates and ballot measures before choosing. People also participate by attending a school board or city council meeting, speaking during public comment, contacting an elected official, or joining a community cleanup. Each action can bring residents' experiences and ideas to leaders who make decisions.
- ③ Civic participation matters even when people disagree. When citizens share informed opinions, officials can better understand what their communities need. Voting helps choose representatives and decide some public questions. Serving on a jury protects the right to a fair trial by using evidence rather than one person's opinion. Participation can also build trust when people listen respectfully, check facts, and accept lawful results. A person does not have to wait for an election to contribute. Responsible action in neighborhoods, schools, and public meetings can improve life in Texas.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two services that required taxes can support. Why does paying taxes help a community?

2 What must an eligible citizen do after receiving a jury summons? How can jury service support fairness?

3 Describe two ways, other than voting, that Texans can participate in public life. How can these actions connect residents to leaders?

4 Why does civic participation matter when people disagree? Give two actions from the passage that can make participation responsible.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a community issue that matters to you. Write exactly three sentences: name one civic responsibility you would follow while addressing it, describe one participation action you would take, and explain why that action matters.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline civic responsibilities and circle ways Texans can participate in public life. This shows how duties and participation work together to support Texas communities. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two services that required taxes can support. Why does paying taxes help a community?	Taxes can support public schools, roads, courts, or emergency response. Paying taxes helps public institutions provide services that the community needs.
2	What must an eligible citizen do after receiving a jury summons? How can jury service support fairness?	The citizen must report for jury service or follow the court's instructions. Jurors listen to evidence and help decide cases, which supports the right to a fair trial.
3	Describe two ways, other than voting, that Texans can participate in public life. How can these actions connect residents to leaders?	Answers may include attending a school board or city council meeting, speaking during public comment, contacting an elected official, or joining a cleanup. These actions bring residents' experiences and ideas to leaders who make decisions.
4	Why does civic participation matter when people disagree? Give two actions from the passage that can make participation responsible.	Sharing informed opinions helps officials understand community needs and can build trust. Responsible actions include listening respectfully, checking facts, and accepting lawful results.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Concerned about a dangerous crosswalk near our park, I would follow traffic laws and respect other people's safety. I would attend a city council meeting, share facts about traffic, and ask leaders to consider a crosswalk signal. This participation could help leaders understand a safety need and make a decision for the neighborhood.

Accept any accurate services, responsibilities, and participation actions stated in the passage. For Part 3, accept a realistic issue and action if the response has exactly three sentences and explains both responsibility and the value of participation.