

Everyday Civic Choices

Read closely to identify actions that strengthen a community.

8.19.C “identify examples of responsible citizenship, including obeying rules and laws, staying informed on public issues, voting, and serving on juries.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions that show responsible citizenship. Write R, I, V, or J above examples of obeying rules or laws, staying informed, voting, and jury service.

Citizens at Work

- ① Citizenship is more than having rights. It also means taking actions that protect the community and help government work. For example, a driver follows speed limits and stops for school buses, even when no officer is nearby. A resident sorts trash according to local rules and pays required taxes. These choices may seem private, but they reduce harm and support shared services. Obeying laws does not end discussion, however. Citizens can question a policy respectfully and seek lawful changes.
- ② Before a city council decides whether to change library hours, people can learn about the proposal. Responsible citizens read the meeting agenda, compare reports from reliable sources, and notice who created a claim. They may ask questions at a public meeting or send comments that explain their reasoning. Staying informed is not the same as repeating a headline or trusting every post online. When citizens understand an issue and its possible effects, they can speak with evidence and make better choices about community decisions.
- ③ Voting gives eligible citizens a direct way to choose representatives and decide some public questions. A voter can study the ballot before Election Day, check voting rules, and cast a ballot within the required time. Another civic duty begins when a person receives a jury summons. Eligible residents must respond as the summons directs. If selected, jurors listen carefully to evidence, avoid outside research, and discuss the case fairly with other jurors. Both voting and jury service require citizens to take their role seriously.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two actions from the first paragraph that show a person obeying rules or laws.

2 Why does the passage say citizens should compare reliable sources and notice who created a claim?

3 What are two steps a voter can take to participate responsibly in an election?

4 What must a person do after receiving a jury summons, and what should selected jurors do during a case?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a public issue that could affect your community. Write four sentences explaining how a responsible citizen could stay informed, follow related rules or laws, vote when eligible, and carry out jury duty if summoned.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline actions that show responsible citizenship. Write R, I, V, or J above examples of obeying rules or laws, staying informed, voting, and jury service. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two actions from the first paragraph that show a person obeying rules or laws.	Following speed limits and stopping for school buses. Other acceptable answers include sorting trash according to local rules or paying required taxes.
2	Why does the passage say citizens should compare reliable sources and notice who created a claim?	These actions help citizens understand an issue and its possible effects so they can speak with evidence and make better community decisions.
3	What are two steps a voter can take to participate responsibly in an election?	Study the ballot before Election Day, check voting rules, and cast a ballot within the required time. Any two are acceptable.
4	What must a person do after receiving a jury summons, and what should selected jurors do during a case?	The person must respond as the summons directs. Selected jurors should listen to evidence, avoid outside research, and discuss the case fairly with other jurors.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would read the city proposal and check information from the water department before forming an opinion about summer water limits. I would follow any approved watering rules, even if my lawn looked dry. If I were eligible, I would study the ballot and vote by the deadline. If I received a jury summons, I would respond as directed and, if selected, decide the case from the evidence.

Accept equivalent passage-based responses that correctly connect each action to responsible citizenship. For the open response, accept a realistic public issue and four accurate actions, one for each required civic responsibility.