

Rights in Action

Read how rights and responsibilities shape civic life.

8.19 "Citizenship. The student understands the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States. The student is expected to: define and give examples of unalienable rights; summarize rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three unalienable rights named in the passage. Circle two Bill of Rights protections, then number the four responsibility examples: 1 for obeying laws, 2 for staying informed, 3 for voting, and 4 for serving on a jury.

Rights and Duties of Citizens

- ① Unalienable rights are rights people have simply because they are human. The Declaration of Independence names life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as examples. Government exists to help protect these rights, not to hand them out or take them away without a just reason. Liberty can include making personal choices, speaking beliefs, and moving freely within the law. A person's rights are important, but using a right does not allow someone to harm another person or deny another person's equal rights.
- ② The first ten amendments to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights. They protect freedoms such as religion, speech, press, peaceful assembly, and petition. They also protect people from unreasonable searches and seizures, require fair legal procedures, and protect the right to a speedy, public trial by an impartial jury in criminal cases. Other amendments in the Bill of Rights address keeping and bearing arms, limits on quartering soldiers in homes, and rights of people accused of crimes. These protections limit government power.
- ③ Citizens also have responsibilities that help a democracy work. Number 1, obey rules and laws, such as stopping at a red light. Number 2, stay informed on public issues by reading a city council meeting agenda before deciding where you stand. Number 3, vote in an election when you are eligible and registered. Number 4, serve on a jury when called and qualified, unless a court excuses you. These actions connect personal choices to the common good and fair government.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What makes a right unalienable? Name the three examples given in the passage.

2 Name two freedoms protected by the Bill of Rights.

3 What specific action does the passage give as an example of staying informed on a public issue?

4 According to the passage, when should a citizen serve on a jury?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Describe a public issue that matters to you in exactly four sentences. Name one unalienable right, name one Bill of Rights protection related to the issue, and describe exactly two actions you would take from the four numbered responsibilities.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the three unalienable rights named in the passage. Circle two Bill of Rights protections, then number the four responsibility examples: 1 for obeying laws, 2 for staying informed, 3 for voting, and 4 for serving on a jury. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What makes a right unalienable? Name the three examples given in the passage.	It is a right people have because they are human. The examples are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
2	Name two freedoms protected by the Bill of Rights.	Answers may include religion, speech, press, peaceful assembly, or petition.
3	What specific action does the passage give as an example of staying informed on a public issue?	Reading a city council meeting agenda before deciding where you stand.
4	According to the passage, when should a citizen serve on a jury?	When called and qualified, unless a court excuses the person.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our town is considering a later curfew for teens, which affects liberty. The First Amendment freedom of speech lets residents share their views about the proposal. I would stay informed by reading the city council agenda and reliable reports about the plan. If eligible and registered, I would vote in the election for leaders who will decide the policy.

Accept equivalent accurate explanations and any two correctly named Bill of Rights freedoms. For the open response, check for exactly four sentences, one unalienable right, one relevant Bill of Rights protection, and exactly two of the four listed citizenship actions.