

Rules for Riverton

Read how constitutional principles guide local and national government.

CE.1.e “explaining the fundamental concepts of the U.S. government including, but not limited to due process, equal justice under the law, equal protection, elections and a representative government, limited government, right to private property...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the nine sentences that state a named government principle. Circle the name of the principle in each sentence you underline.

A City Proposal, Constitutional Limits

- ① In Riverton, the council proposed permits for food carts in busy parks. Under the rule of law, a written rule applies to residents and officials alike, not according to friendship or wealth. Limited government means officials may act only within powers the Constitution and laws give them. Equal justice under the law requires courts to apply laws fairly. Equal protection requires government to provide the same legal protection to people in similar situations. Due process requires notice and a fair chance to be heard before government takes away a person’s liberty or property.
- ② Riverton residents elect council members to make local laws, so elections create a representative government rather than requiring every resident to vote on each ordinance, and voters can replace representatives at later elections to hold them accountable. Separation of powers divides national authority among Congress, the president, and the courts: Congress makes laws, the president carries them out, and courts decide cases, so no one branch should hold all government power alone at any time.
- ③ The council also plans to widen a road near several homes. People have a right to private property, but government may take property for public use only through lawful procedures and with just compensation, meaning fair payment. If a state or local rule conflicts with the U.S. Constitution or a valid federal law, the Supremacy Clause makes the Constitution or federal law controlling. Therefore, Riverton cannot enforce a local rule that conflicts with federal law or the Constitution.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does the passage say the rule of law requires, and how does limited government restrict officials?

2 How are equal justice under the law and equal protection described in the passage?

3 How do elections make Riverton's council a representative government, and what can voters do later?

4 What must government do if it takes private property for public use, and what happens when a local rule conflicts with federal law?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a local government decision that affects a resident. Write three sentences explaining how at least three government principles from the passage should guide that decision.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the nine sentences that state a named government principle. Circle the name of the principle in each sentence you underline. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the passage say the rule of law requires, and how does limited government restrict officials?	The rule of law requires written rules to apply to residents and officials alike, not based on friendship or wealth. Limited government restricts officials to powers given by the Constitution and laws.
2	How are equal justice under the law and equal protection described in the passage?	Equal justice under the law requires courts to apply laws fairly. Equal protection requires government to give the same legal protection to people in similar situations.
3	How do elections make Riverton's council a representative government, and what can voters do later?	Residents elect council members to make local laws instead of voting on every ordinance. Voters can replace representatives in later elections to hold them accountable.
4	What must government do if it takes private property for public use, and what happens when a local rule conflicts with federal law?	Government must use lawful procedures and provide just compensation, or fair payment. Under the Supremacy Clause, federal law controls, so the local rule cannot be enforced.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The town plans to take Ms. Lee's empty warehouse to build a public library. Due process means it must give her notice and a fair hearing, and her private-property right means it must pay just compensation if it takes the building. The town must also follow its written rules and apply them equally to owners in similar situations.

For Part 1, students should underline the nine sentences that name a principle, not the three setting or application sentences. Accept varied local scenarios in Part 3 if they accurately explain at least three relevant principles.