

Everyday Civic Duties

Read how citizens support laws, courts, and public services.

CE.10.a “describing duties of citizens, including paying taxes, serving on a jury, following the law, and registering for selective service;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the four civic duties named in the passage. Number them 1 through 4 to show the different ways citizens help government and courts function.

Responsibilities in a Constitutional Government

- ① Citizens help a constitutional government work through everyday responsibilities. One duty is following laws, such as obeying traffic rules, respecting others' rights, and meeting school or community rules that protect safety. Laws apply even when a person disagrees with them. Citizens can seek change by voting, speaking with representatives, joining peaceful groups, or supporting new laws. Following the law while using these lawful methods helps protect order and the rights of other people in the community.
- ② Citizens also pay taxes required by federal, state, and local governments. Income taxes may be taken from earnings, and sales taxes are added to many purchases. Tax money funds public services, including roads, schools, emergency services, and national defense. People may disagree about how tax money should be spent, but they must pay taxes they legally owe. Paying taxes does not mean choosing every budget decision. It means contributing to services and programs established through government.
- ③ Another civic duty involves jury service. A court may summon eligible citizens to report for possible jury duty. Jurors listen to evidence and help decide facts in a case, so courts can provide a fair trial. In addition, federal law requires male U.S. citizens and male immigrants ages 18 through 25 to register with the Selective Service System. Registration provides information if a military draft is authorized by Congress and the president. Registering is not the same as joining the military.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What are two lawful ways citizens can seek to change a law or government decision?

2 Which levels of government may require taxes, and name two public services that taxes can fund.

3 What do jurors do, and how does their work help the court?

4 According to the passage, who must register with the Selective Service System, and what is registration for?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence message for someone who is turning 18. Include one concrete action connected to paying taxes, following laws, jury service, and Selective Service registration, if it applies to the person.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the four civic duties named in the passage. Number them 1 through 4 to show the different ways citizens help government and courts function. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two lawful ways citizens can seek to change a law or government decision?	Any two: voting, speaking with representatives, joining peaceful groups, or supporting new laws.
2	Which levels of government may require taxes, and name two public services that taxes can fund.	Federal, state, and local governments may require taxes. Taxes can fund any two of these: roads, schools, emergency services, or national defense.
3	What do jurors do, and how does their work help the court?	Jurors listen to evidence and help decide facts in a case. Their work helps courts provide a fair trial.
4	According to the passage, who must register with the Selective Service System, and what is registration for?	Male U.S. citizens and male immigrants ages 18 through 25 must register. Registration provides information if Congress and the president authorize a military draft.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At 18, learn which taxes you owe and file or pay them on time. Follow laws such as local driving rules, and use peaceful, legal ways to advocate for a change you want. If a court summons you for jury duty, report and listen carefully to the evidence. If you are a male U.S. citizen or male immigrant between 18 and 25, register with Selective Service as required.

Accept equivalent lawful examples of following laws or seeking change. For Selective Service, students should identify male U.S. citizens and male immigrants ages 18 through 25 and should not confuse registration with joining the military.