

Fair Steps Matter

How due-process protections support just decisions

CE.5.b “describing how due-process protections seek to ensure justice;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In every sentence that includes *because*, underline the right or procedure named before *because*, then circle all the words after *because*. This shows how each protection seeks justice.

Jordan's Fair Process

- ① Due process is the idea that the government must use fair steps before taking a person's life, liberty, or property. Imagine police suspect Jordan of stealing a bicycle. Before entering Jordan's home to look for the bicycle, officers usually need a warrant from a judge, because a judge checks whether there is a legal reason to search. If officers arrest Jordan, they must tell Jordan the charge, because a person cannot prepare a fair response without knowing the accusation.
- ② After an arrest, Jordan may remain silent rather than answer questions, because people should not be forced to say things that could be used against them. Jordan also has the right to a lawyer, because a lawyer can explain the law and speak for the accused. At a hearing, Jordan can hear the evidence and challenge it, because a decision is more reliable when both sides can question claims. These steps do not promise that Jordan will avoid punishment. They require a fair process for deciding what happened.
- ③ During a trial, an impartial jury listens to the evidence, because jurors should decide the case without favoring either side. The government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, because a serious punishment should not rest on weak evidence. If Jordan is found not guilty, the government generally cannot try Jordan again for the same offense, because repeated trials could unfairly pressure an innocent person. A person who is convicted may appeal a legal error, because another court can review whether the rules were followed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why do officers usually need a warrant before searching Jordan's home?

2 What can Jordan do at a hearing, and why does this support a reliable decision?

3 How can having a lawyer help make the process fair for Jordan?

4 How does the rule against trying Jordan again after a not-guilty decision seek justice?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Avery is accused of damaging school property. Before anyone decides Avery's case, describe three due-process protections Avery should receive and explain how each one could help make the decision fair.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In every sentence that includes *because*, underline the right or procedure named before *because*, then circle all the words after *because*. This shows how each protection seeks justice. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why do officers usually need a warrant before searching Jordan's home?	A judge checks whether there is a legal reason to search.
2	What can Jordan do at a hearing, and why does this support a reliable decision?	Jordan can hear the evidence and challenge it. This lets both sides question claims.
3	How can having a lawyer help make the process fair for Jordan?	A lawyer can explain the law and speak for the accused.
4	How does the rule against trying Jordan again after a not-guilty decision seek justice?	It prevents repeated trials that could unfairly pressure an innocent person.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before deciding Avery's case, officers should get a warrant before searching Avery's room, so a judge checks the reason for the search. Avery should know the charge and have a lawyer, so Avery can prepare a response and understand the law. At a hearing, Avery should hear and challenge the evidence, so both sides can question claims before a decision.

Accept three pre-decision protections from the passage, such as a warrant, notice of the charge, remaining silent, a lawyer, a hearing to hear and challenge evidence, an impartial jury, or proof beyond a reasonable doubt. Each protection should include a reasonable explanation of how it promotes a fair and reliable decision.