

Voices for Change

Use campaigns and petitions to seek peaceful community change.

CE.6.c “examining ways to peacefully work for change in communities or the nation by participating in political campaigns and methods of peacefully petitioning the government for change;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each peaceful action the Brookside group used to seek change, and circle details that show how the group acted responsibly.

A Safer Maple Street

- ① When residents of Brookside noticed that students had trouble crossing Maple Street near the library, they wanted safer crossings. Some people suggested angry posts or blocking traffic. Instead, a group chose peaceful civic action. They learned which local officials could consider a crosswalk and lower speed limit. The group planned to share facts, listen to neighbors, and ask the town council for a change. Their goal was not to force agreement. It was to help decision makers understand a community need.
- ② First, the group participated in a local political campaign. They chose to support a council candidate who said she would study pedestrian safety. Volunteers wrote brief messages about the crossing issue and asked voters to learn about all candidates. They handed out campaign information with permission at a community event and encouraged respectful conversations. They did not claim that the candidate had promised a crosswalk. Participating in campaigns lets people support ideas and candidates while other voters remain free to disagree.
- ③ The group also created a petition requesting a traffic study and a public discussion. Before signing, each person could read the exact request, so signatures showed support for that stated action. Organizers collected names according to town rules and delivered the petition to the council clerk. At a public meeting, two students spoke for two minutes each and gave the council their evidence. Council members could ask questions, approve the request, change it, or vote no. Peaceful petitioning gives people a formal way to seek change, even when the outcome is uncertain.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the group participate in the political campaign in a peaceful and responsible way? Give two details.

2 What exact action did the group's petition request?

3 How is participating in a political campaign different from petitioning the government, according to the passage?

4 What could the council members do after hearing the students' evidence?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a community issue that matters to you. Write four sentences explaining how you could peacefully participate in a local political campaign and use a petition to ask the government for a specific change.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each peaceful action the Brookside group used to seek change, and circle details that show how the group acted responsibly. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the group participate in the political campaign in a peaceful and responsible way? Give two details.	They handed out campaign information with permission and encouraged respectful conversations. They also asked voters to learn about all candidates and did not make a false promise.
2	What exact action did the group's petition request?	It requested a traffic study and a public discussion.
3	How is participating in a political campaign different from petitioning the government, according to the passage?	A political campaign lets people support candidates and ideas as voters make choices. A petition is a formal written request asking government officials to consider a change.
4	What could the council members do after hearing the students' evidence?	They could ask questions, approve the request, change it, or vote no.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I want the city to add more benches at the bus stop near the recreation center. During the city council campaign, I would share this idea with candidates and ask voters to compare their plans. I would make a petition asking the council to study bus stop seating and would collect signatures only after people read the request. I would deliver it to the council clerk and speak politely at a public meeting.

Accept equivalent details from the passage for Questions 1 through 4. For the open response, accept any realistic community issue, a peaceful campaign action, a clear petition request to an appropriate government body, and respectful methods.