

5.8 The Role of Citizens

DIRECTIONS

Read the following list of ways citizens can participate in their government. Then use the information to create a poster on page 84. On the poster, list two ways to be an active citizen. Then illustrate your poster by drawing a picture of people carrying out one or both actions.

PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION PROCESS

- ✓ Vote in primary and general elections.
- ✓ Work on election campaigns.
- ✓ Run for office.

MONITOR THE GOVERNMENT AND MAKE YOUR OPINIONS KNOWN

- ✓ Keep informed about important issues and what your government leaders are doing.
- ✓ Write letters to encourage your leaders to vote a certain way.
- ✓ Take action—express your opinions in responsible ways.

ACT WITH CIVIC VIRTUE

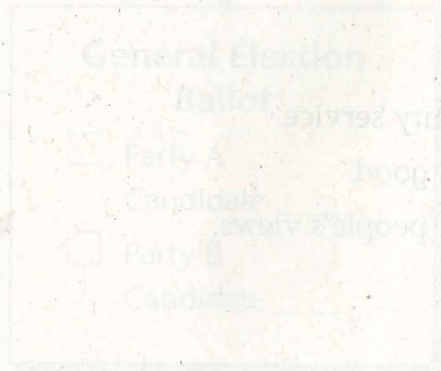
- ✓ Obey laws.
- ✓ Serve on juries.
- ✓ Pay taxes.
- ✓ Volunteer for community service.
- ✓ Work for the common good.
- ✓ Show respect for other people's views.

(continued)

Two Ways to Be an Active Citizen

1. _____

2. _____



5.9 Issues Today

DIRECTIONS

Read the two letters to the local newspaper below. They express different opinions about the same issue. Use the letters to answer the questions on page 86.

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to your article about building a highway over the old battleground. People need a faster way to drive to the city, but building a highway on historic land is not the solution. We need to honor the people who fought and died on this ground. A bridge over the battleground will make this historic site noisy and ugly.

Sincerely,
Alex Warner

Dear Editor,

I am writing in support of plans for the new highway. People who work in the city waste time in their cars that could be spent with their families or helping in the community. A quick route would improve life for the people who live here. Building the highway on a bridge that goes over the battleground is a good idea, because it leaves space for a park.

Sincerely,
Patty Brown

(continued)

1 What issue are the letters discussing? What are the two opinions they give?

2 In what other ways could the writers make their opinions known to government leaders and other members of the community?

3 If you wanted to find out more about this or another civic issue, what information resources could you use?
