

Social Studies Performance Task 3-1

Standard(s):

- **SS1c – Citizenship:** Explain actions citizens can take to influence public policy.

The Task:

You live in a community where the members of the community work well together and are proud of their community.

One morning you discover trash in the park and graffiti scratched on the buildings and fences. There are reports of other vandalism incidents around the town. One family's dog is missing, and a new tree has been cut down.

You come face-to-face with the need for laws; otherwise, nothing can be done to stop this destruction of property.

Write a letter to the local newspaper editor. In the letter you will state the problem, explain the need for governance, and identify at least three public officials who can take action to solve the problem. Explain how you would like to see each official resolve this situation. Share your letter with other members of the community and get their feedback on the issue. Use the feedback to revise your letter.

Circumstances of Performance:

The student work is produced under the following conditions:

alone

in a group

in class

as homework

with teacher feedback (3 adults)

with peer feedback

timed

extended project

no opportunity for revision

opportunity for revision

Criteria for Success:

- Explains the problem clearly, giving facts and details.
- Identifies at least three government officials who can resolve the issue.
- Explains the role of each official in responding to the problem.
- Uses appropriate conventions and grammar.

Related Standards:

- **SS8a – Power, Authority, and Governance:** Explain why government is necessary in the classroom, school, community, state, and nation.
- **SS8b – Power, Authority, and Governance:** Identify and describe the basic features of local and state political systems