

Name:

The Mayor Needs Help! Instructions from Sally O'Malley

Mayor Johnson and Sally O'Malley are grateful for your help! Here are Sally's directions for sorting the letters. First, read the description of the different government roles in MyTown in this chart:

Mayor	Judge	Town Council
Hire a sheriff	Decide if laws are broken	Make laws
Enforce the laws	Decide property and money arguments	Help solve town problems
Solve town problems	Decide what should happen to someone who breaks a law	Decide how to spend the government's money

Next, read each letter to the mayor from the townspeople. For each letter, decide who should handle the problem, the mayor, judge, or town council and check the box on the chart below. Explain your decision in the chart, too.

Letter	Part of Government	Reasons
1 - Theo Throtter	<input type="checkbox"/> mayor <input type="checkbox"/> judge <input type="checkbox"/> town council	
2 - Wallace and Wilbur Willow	<input type="checkbox"/> mayor <input type="checkbox"/> judge <input type="checkbox"/> town council	
3 - Tom and Sarah Vander	<input type="checkbox"/> mayor <input type="checkbox"/> judge <input type="checkbox"/> town council	
4 - The Wheeler Family	<input type="checkbox"/> mayor <input type="checkbox"/> judge <input type="checkbox"/> town council	
5 - Ashford and Linda Judd	<input type="checkbox"/> mayor <input type="checkbox"/> judge <input type="checkbox"/> town council	
6 - David Torres	<input type="checkbox"/> mayor <input type="checkbox"/> judge <input type="checkbox"/> town council	

Letters from the Townspeople

Letter #1

Dear Mayor,

On Wednesday, the Willows' wagon almost whacked me on Main Street! The wagon wouldn't stop so I ran out of the way. But "whoosh" went my wallet under the wheel.

It was either Wallace or Wilber Willow who was driving way too fast. Will you please hold a trial and make the Willow brothers pay for the wallet and wad of money I lost when their wagon wheels almost whacked me?

Weary of wacky wagon drivers,

Theo Throtter



Letter #2

Dear Mayor:

Last Thursday night Theo Throtter came to see us. Theo threatened to throw things at us until we told him who was driving through town in our wagon on Wednesday.

We think that there is a town rule that says "no threatening each other." We need your help enforcing this rule. Please go tell Theo that threats are against the law.

*Thanks,
Wallace and Wilbur Willow*



Letter #3

Dear Mayor,

The Perinis and their goats are getting on our nerves. Every day when we open the general store, those goats get in and gobble up our goods! Those goats grab grapes, green beans, grains, and all kinds of other groceries. We try to guard the door, but the goats go around us and start gobbling groceries before we can grab them!



Please arrest the Perinis and their goats!

Good day,

Tom and Sarah Vander

Letter #4

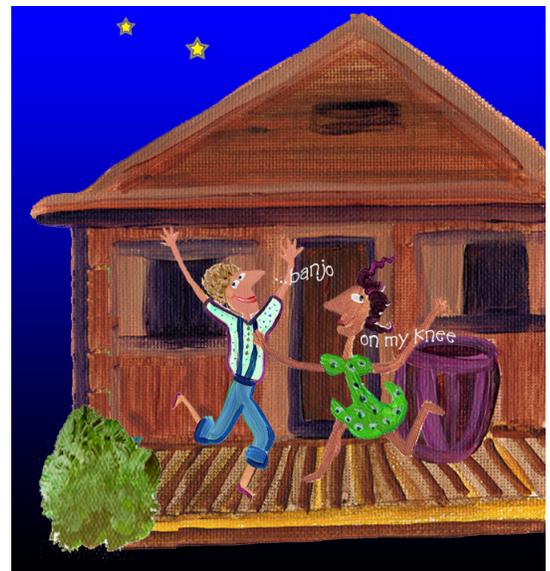
Dear Mayor,

Last night Susie and Sam Susman had song practice again. They sang snappy songs, sad songs, and silly songs long after sundown. It was too late for loudness. We simply could not sleep!

Please make a new law that says loud singing must stop after sundown.

Sincerely,

The Wheeler Family



Letter #5

Dear Mayor:

Main Street belongs to everyone. It is public property, but people's pets and farm animals are causing problems. People let their pets, pigs, and other animals run loose and they do not clean up after them. There are little piles of poop on the planks of our sidewalks and in the street. Instead of saying what a pretty place our town is, people are saying "Pee-yew!"

Plus, pets and livestock should be protected. Playing in the street is dangerous. We should not have turkeys pecking at pigs or pigs poking at pups or other problems between pets or livestock!

We should take pride in our public property. Please make new laws to protect pets and to keep poop off of public property.

Please help,

Ashford and Linda Judd



Letter #6

Dear Mayor,

Most folks in this town get along fine, but some find frustration with each other. Last Friday, Farina Fernandez built a fence around her flower garden. Unfortunately, her new neighbor Felix Fafner says the fence is on his farmland.

They each have papers that show they each paid for land where the fence is. Who is right?

We need someone who will listen to both sides and figure out if Farina's flower fence falls on Felix's farm.

Your friend,

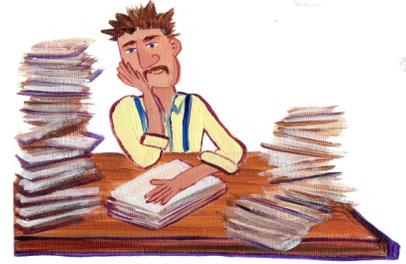
David Torres



MyTown Government

Sally O'Malley thanks you for helping sort the letters. The mayor is happy to have the judge and town council to help run MyTown.

Review the chart below:



Mayor Executive Branch	Judge Judicial Branch	Town Council Legislative Branch
<p>The mayor is the town's chief. That means the mayor carries out (or enforces) the laws of the town. The mayor hires the sheriff and the sheriff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works for the mayor in carrying out the laws. • The sheriff makes sure that those who break the law are arrested. <p>The mayor is elected by the townspeople.</p>	<p>The judge decides who is wrong and who is right when people argue or fight with each other. Judges also decide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If laws are broken. • Arguments over property and money. • What should happen if someone breaks the law. <p>The state governor appoints the judges. They are not elected by the people.</p>	<p>The town council is the group of people who decide what the laws of the town are going to be. The town council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes laws. • Help solve the town's problems. • Decides how to spend the town's money. <p>The town council is elected by the townspeople.</p>

Now that you have sorted the letters, answer these questions:

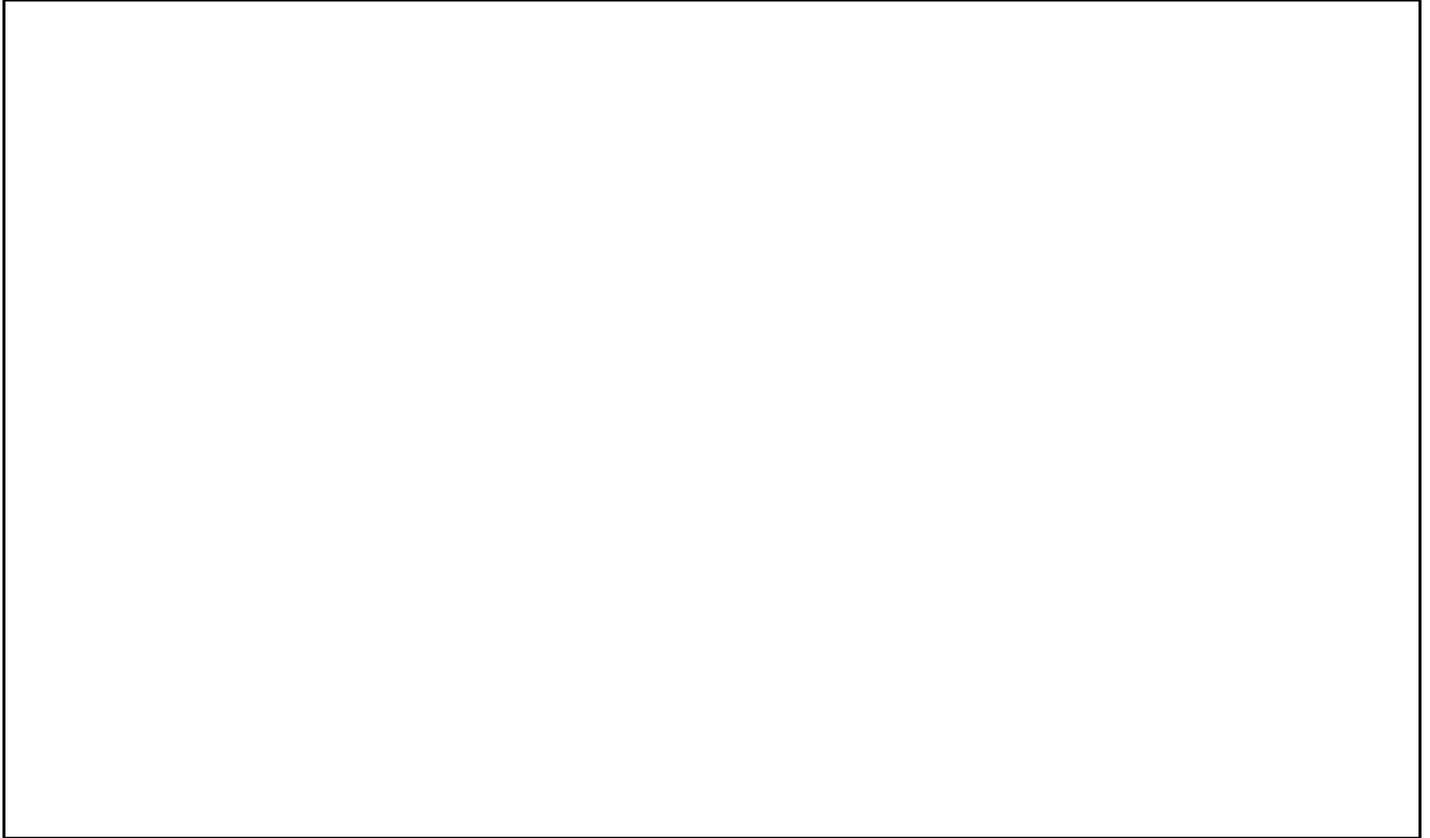
What is a government?

Why do governments make laws for communities?

What do you think are the most important jobs governments do?

Writing and Illustration Activity

Using the space below, answer the question **“Why is it important for communities to have governments?”** in a single paragraph (2-3 sentences). Next, illustrate your answer by drawing a picture, or cut and paste images from the internet to make a collage.



Why is it important for communities to have governments?