

Name _____ Teacher _____

The Quality of Life in Our Town

Municipal governments have as one of their main jobs providing the best possible quality of life for the town. Everyone's ideas about a good quality of life are different, and so every town is different. Some people like big cities with many events to choose from; others like a quiet, calm place to live. Some people like towns where residents share common values; other people prefer towns where many different kinds of people and cultural groups live. Many Texans like towns with modern buildings; others think historic towns with older buildings are more interesting.

One of the things that town governments do is represent townspeople's ideas about what makes a good quality of life. If most people in town think that preserving open land is important, for example, the city government will think twice before allowing a large building to be constructed on a site. If, however, the town's residents badly need the jobs that would come from the constructing and operating the building, the town government would be likely to approve the project.

To be able to participate effectively in your town's government, you have to know what you like about your town. You also have to know what you think should be changed. Take a few minutes and consider the things that you like and dislike about your town, and mark your opinion on the continuums below. Just place an X at the spot along the line that reflects your opinion. (There are no right and wrong answers here, so put down what you REALLY think.)

Our town:

- | | |
|---|---|
| X _____ | _____ X |
| 1. is too big (in population) | is too small |
| X _____ | _____ X |
| 2. has great transportation (roads, buses) | has very poor transportation |
| X _____ | _____ X |
| 3. has plenty of recreation and sports facilities | has far too few such facilities |
| X _____ | _____ X |
| 4. has plenty of parks | has far too few parks |
| X _____ | _____ X |
| 5. is clean and pleasant to live in | is dirty and unpleasant |
| X _____ | _____ X |
| 6. has enough fine medical care | has inadequate medical care |
| X _____ | _____ X |
| 7. is a very safe place to live | is very unsafe |
| X _____ | _____ X |
| 8. has taxes that are much too high | has taxes so low they don't
buy what we need |
| X _____ | _____ X |
| 9. has a booming economy | has bad economic problems |
| X _____ | _____ X |
| 10. has fine municipal leaders | has bad city leaders |

Name _____

Next, tell why you put the X where you did on each continuum.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

