

From Protest to Policy: A Community Leader's Journey

COMPREHENSION • VOCABULARY • DISCUSSION

INTERACTIVE ONLINE TEST

Take the full interactive test with instant feedback →

<https://www.esl-tests.com/reading/b2/protest-policy-community-leaders-journey>



Reading Passage

Read the passage carefully. Each paragraph is labelled with a letter for easy reference.

A Maria Gonzalez, a passionate community organizer from Los Angeles, has dedicated the last decade to fighting for affordable housing. After witnessing countless families struggle to pay rent and facing the threat of eviction, she decided to take action. In 2015, Maria organized a protest that brought together over 2,000 residents from various neighborhoods. The event was not just a demonstration; it was a powerful call to action for local government officials to address the ongoing housing crisis affecting many families. As the crowd marched through the streets, holding bright signs that read 'Homes for All' and 'Stop the Eviction,' Maria spoke passionately about the urgent need for change and the importance of community support. The protest gained significant media attention, and many local leaders began to recognize the urgency of the situation and the need for immediate solutions.

B Following the protest, Maria didn't stop her efforts. Instead, she initiated a series of community meetings to discuss potential solutions to the housing crisis. These gatherings brought together residents, local businesses, and policymakers, creating a platform for collaboration. Maria's ability to foster dialogue was impressive; she encouraged everyone to share their experiences and ideas, ensuring that all voices were heard. In 2018, her hard work paid off when the city council voted in favor of a new housing policy aimed at providing more affordable options for low-income families. Maria's journey from a protest leader to a policy advocate illustrates the power of grassroots movements in creating real change. Her inspiring story motivates others to believe that collective action can lead to tangible results in their communities, fostering hope and resilience among those affected by the housing crisis.

Vocabulary Glossary

Key words and phrases from the passage. Study them before attempting the exercise below.

WORD / PHRASE	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
eviction	when someone is forced to leave their home, usually because they can't pay rent	<i>The family faced eviction after losing their jobs.</i>
organizer	a person who plans and arranges events or activities	<i>The organizer made sure the event went smoothly.</i>
demonstration	an event where people gather to show they want change	<i>The demonstration brought thousands of people to the streets.</i>
collaboration	when people work together to reach a goal	<i>The project was a success because of good collaboration.</i>
advocate	someone who supports a cause and tries to help it	<i>He is a strong advocate for animal rights.</i>
affordable	not too expensive; within one's budget	<i>They are looking for an affordable place to live.</i>
resilience	the ability to recover quickly from problems	<i>Her resilience helped her get through tough times.</i>
grassroots	a movement that begins with ordinary people	<i>Grassroots efforts often lead to big changes.</i>

Vocabulary Exercise — Fill in the Blank

Use one word or phrase from the glossary above to complete each sentence. Each item is used only once. Answers are on the final page.

1. The _____ for the event made sure everyone knew where to go.
2. Many people joined the _____ to demand better working conditions.
3. After the meeting, there was a strong sense of _____ among the team.
4. She is an _____ for the rights of homeless people.
5. They need to find an _____ solution to the housing problem.
6. Her _____ was clear when she quickly bounced back from failure.

Comprehension Questions

These questions are different from the online practice test. Choose the best answer (A, B, C, or D). Answers and explanations are on the final page.

Question 1

What was the main goal of the protest organized by Maria Gonzalez?

- A. To increase media attention on personal stories
- B. To urge local government to address the housing crisis
- C. To promote local businesses and their services
- D. To celebrate community achievements

Question 2

How did Maria ensure all voices were heard during community meetings?

- A. By limiting the number of attendees
- B. By inviting only local leaders
- C. By encouraging everyone to share experiences and ideas
- D. By conducting one-on-one interviews

Question 3

What immediate impact did the protest have on local leaders?

- A. They ignored the protest completely
- B. They began to recognize the urgency of the housing crisis
- C. They increased taxes for housing projects
- D. They held a celebration for Maria's efforts

Question 4

What does Maria's journey illustrate about grassroots movements?

- A. They have little impact on real change
- B. They require significant financial support
- C. They can lead to real change in communities
- D. They often fail due to lack of interest

Question 5

Why did Maria organize community meetings after the protest?

- A. To celebrate the success of the protest
- B. To discuss potential solutions to the housing crisis
- C. To recruit more volunteers for future protests
- D. To critique local government policies publicly

Discussion & Writing Prompts

Each prompt references a specific detail from the passage above. Use for classroom discussion or a short written response (150–200 words).

1. In paragraph 1, it mentions that Maria's protest gained significant media attention. How important do you think media coverage is for social movements, and can it sometimes have negative effects?

2. Paragraph 2 describes how Maria's efforts led to a new housing policy in 2018. What challenges do you think policymakers face when trying to implement changes like these, and how can community leaders support them?

3. The passage highlights Maria's role in fostering dialogue in community meetings. Why is it crucial for all community members to be heard, and what methods can be used to ensure this happens effectively?

Answer Key

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Q1 B

Q2 C

Q3 B

Q4 C

Q5 B

VOCABULARY EXERCISE

FIB1 organizer

FIB2 demonstration

FIB3 collaboration

FIB4 advocate

FIB5 affordable

FIB6 resilience

Comprehension Question Explanations

Why the correct answer is right — and why each wrong option is incorrect.

1. What was the main goal of the protest organized by Maria Gonzalez?

✓ B — To urge local government to address the housing crisis

The protest was a call to action for local government officials to address the housing crisis.

✗ A — To increase media attention on personal stories

While media attention was gained, the main goal was not personal stories.

✗ C — To promote local businesses and their services

The protest was not focused on promoting local businesses.

✗ D — To celebrate community achievements

The protest's purpose was not to celebrate achievements.

2. How did Maria ensure all voices were heard during community meetings?

✓ C — By encouraging everyone to share experiences and ideas

Maria encouraged everyone to share their experiences and ideas at the meetings.

✗ A — By limiting the number of attendees

There is no mention of limiting attendees in the passage.

✗ B — By inviting only local leaders

The meetings included residents and businesses, not just leaders.

✗ D — By conducting one-on-one interviews

The meetings were not described as one-on-one interviews.

3. What immediate impact did the protest have on local leaders?

✓ B — They began to recognize the urgency of the housing crisis

Local leaders began to recognize the urgency of the housing situation after the protest.

✗ A — They ignored the protest completely

Local leaders did not ignore the protest; they recognized its urgency.

✗ C — They increased taxes for housing projects

The passage does not mention any tax changes as a result.

✗ D — They held a celebration for Maria's efforts

The text does not mention any celebration for Maria's efforts.

4. What does Maria's journey illustrate about grassroots movements?

✓ C — They can lead to real change in communities

Maria's journey shows that grassroots movements can create real change in communities.

✗ A — They have little impact on real change

The passage shows that grassroots efforts do have an impact.

✗ B — They require significant financial support

The passage does not focus on financial aspects of grassroots movements.

✗ D — They often fail due to lack of interest

Maria's story demonstrates success, not failure, due to interest.

5. Why did Maria organize community meetings after the protest?

✓ B — To discuss potential solutions to the housing crisis

Maria organized meetings to discuss solutions to the housing crisis.

✗ A — To celebrate the success of the protest

The meetings were not celebrations but discussions.

✗ C — To recruit more volunteers for future protests

While collaboration was key, recruiting was not the main goal.

✗ D — To critique local government policies publicly

The meetings focused on solutions, not critiquing policies.

MORE B2 LEVEL READING PRACTICE

Letters Refugee Camp Family Story Hope — <https://www.esl-tests.com/reading/b2/letters-refugee-camp-family-story-hope>

Global Health Preparedness Lessons Recent Pandemics — <https://www.esl-tests.com/reading/b2/global-health-preparedness-lessons-recent-pandemics>

Climate Migration Communities Move — <https://www.esl-tests.com/reading/b2/climate-migration-communities-move>