1] Urban activist Alessandra Orofino's home city of Rio de Janeiro is one of the world's megacities. With a population of over 11 million, Rio has grown extremely quickly over the last 60 years. But Rio is not unique. Cities around the world are growing at similar speeds. Today, around half the world's population lives in cities, and nearly 2 billion new residents are expected in the next 20 years.

[2] Cities are growing because of the advantages they offer. Residents are provided with convenience,[1] culture, and jobs. But Orofino believes that modern city life is far from ideal.

[3] According to Orofino, people are becoming increasingly disconnected with the cities they live in. Election turnouts[2] in cities around the world are falling. In Rio, for example, voting is required by law. However, in one election, nearly 30 percent of people did not vote; instead they stayed home and chose to pay a fine instead.

[4] Orofino also believes that cities cause us to be disconnected from one another. As new buildings are built, many public spaces disappear. Without these places, it's difficult for people to socialize,[3] make friends, and form a close and happy community.

[5] Orofino believes that getting citizens to work together and be more involved with the running of their cities is hugely important. To this end, Orofino cofounded[4] a group called Meu Rio. Meu Rio is an online network that makes it easier for Rio citizens to have their say about the running of the city. As part of the network, people receive news updates and are able to participate in important decisions about the future of their city.

[6] Meu Rio has been a huge success. More than 200,000 Rio citizens are now part of this online community. Orofino is hopeful that projects like hers will become common in cities around the world, and will start what she calls "a participation revolution."

[1] **convenience:** *n.* a situation where things are easy to do

[2] **turnout:** *n.* the number of people who go to an event

[3] **socialize:** *v.* to meet and talk to different people

[4] **cofound:** *v.* to start an organization together with another person

LIVEWORKSHEETS

What's the main purpose of the passage?

a. to explain the benefits of living in cities

b. to highlight problems of cities and offer a possible solution

c. to show what Rio de Janeiro learned from other cities

1. **Rio de Janeiro is the fastest-growing city in Brazil.**

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2. **The number of people living in cities around the world is rising.**

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3. **In cities around the world, election turnouts are increasing.**

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4. **People in Rio de Janeiro are required to vote by law.**

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

5. **Orofino started Meu Rio in 2011.**

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6. **Members of Meu Rio receive news updates via the Internet.**

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7. **Meu Rio has more than 200,000 members.**

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INSTRUCTIONS ▲

A Complete the paragraph with the words in **blue** from the passage.

When a country holds a(n) _____, it's an opportunity for _____ to _____ or to make their voices heard on relevant issues. In about two dozen countries, including Argentina, Greece, and Australia, people are _____ to participate in the process. If they choose not to, they have to _____ or perform community service.

LIVEWORKSHEETS