Using a highlighter indicate any part of the following story of a student’s typical day in which some form of government is involved. Count the number of times there is a reference to something in which government has played a part.

As you wake up one winter morning, your clock radio plays that familiar Canadian musician’s song which seems to everywhere these days. After breakfast of eggs you get dressed and ready for the walk to school. The sidewalks have already been cleared of snow though you notice the pedestrian crosswalk is a little slippery.

You pass by a fire station on your way to school. The sidewalks are harder to navigate since many residents have their blue boxes out for recycling pick up. Passing by a series of parking meters you notice a loonie dropped in the snow by a hurried shopper. Your lucky day!

The mail delivery person greets you as you cut across a little park and walk toward the school. Grabbing your texts from your locker, you head to class through the heavy fire doors. You teacher is quite young, and has just graduated from teacher’s college last year. As you discuss the issue of native land claims in British Columbia, you realize that you are nearing the end of the unit on citizenship in the Civics course.

At lunch time you jump into your friend’s car, put on your passenger’s seat belt and drive over to the nearby deli. Your friend is especially proud of his driving, as he just got his driver’s license. You order a corned beef sandwich prepared before your eyes, from the cutting and weighing of the meat by the gloved clerk to the scooping of the prepared potato salad.

You and your friend eat at a small booth directly across from the counter.

Before you drive back to school, you buy a birthday gift for your brother: a case for his Ipod. You forget about the P.S.T. and have just enough cash for the total. You stop to gas up the car, and return to school.

In the parking lot, you chat with a friend. She has just got her Canadian citizenship after her family moved from Afghanistan. She has to work later this evening at a fast food restaurant where she earns minimum wage. You pause in your conversation to let a person walking their muzzled dog go past you on the sidewalk. Promising to talk to your friend later, you enter the school, pausing only to wave to another friend standing in the smoking area.  You have some water at the drinking fountain to help you take the antibiotic medicine you got at the health clinic three days ago, for a throat infection from which you’ve been suffering.

As you wait for afternoon classes to start, you think about what you might do that evening. You might go to the Galaxy theatres with some friends to see a movie, or you might just listen to the radio while you clean your room, a job your parents have been after you to do for the past few days. You also have some math homework to do. You want to keep your marks up so that you can follow your older brother to university in Toronto. In the meantime you have two more classes before your school day is over.