

Unit 1: Citizenship - Duties, Rights, and Liberties

Standard(s) of Learning:

CE.3 – The student will demonstrate knowledge of citizenship and the rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizens by

- a) Describing the process by which an individual becomes a citizen of the United States
- b) Describing the First Amendment freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition, and the rights guaranteed by due process and equal protection of the laws
- c) Describing the duties of citizenship, including registering and voting, communicating with government officials, participating in political campaigns, keeping informed about current issues, and respecting differing opinions in a diverse society
- d) Evaluating how civic and social duties address community needs and serve the public good

CE.4 – The student will demonstrate knowledge of personal character traits that facilitate thoughtful and effective participation in civic life by

- a) Practicing trustworthiness and honesty
- b) Practicing courtesy and respect for the rights of others
- c) Practicing responsibility, accountability, and self-reliance
- d) Practicing respect for the law
- e) Practicing patriotism
- f) Practicing decision making
- g) Practicing service to the school and/or local community

CE.10 – The student will demonstrate knowledge of the judicial systems established by the Constitution of Virginia and the Constitution of the United States by

- d) Explaining how due process protections seek to ensure justice
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Part I: Becoming a Citizen (CE.3 a)



Becoming a Citizen

- A **citizen** is an individual with certain rights and duties under a government and who, by **birth** or **choice**, owes allegiance to that government
- The **Fourteenth Amendment** to the Constitution of the United States of America defines **citizenship** as follows:
 - “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and the state wherein they reside.”

Means of obtaining citizenship

- By **birth** – being born in the U.S. or U.S. territory, or if one of your parents is a U.S. citizen
- By **naturalization** – a legal process by which an alien becomes a citizen
- To become a citizen through naturalization, a person must:
 - Demonstrate knowledge of **American history** and principles
 - Demonstrate the ability to **read, speak, and write** words in ordinary usage in the **English** language

Who else lives in the U.S. besides citizens?

- Immigrants: these are people who are from a different country. The United States is a country of immigrants as many citizens can trace their family history to other countries
- Legal Aliens: these are people who are citizens of another country who have received permission to enter the United States. Aliens often come to the U.S. to visit or attend school. Aliens enjoy many of the same rights as U.S. citizens, but they cannot serve on juries, vote, or hold elected office. They must carry an identification card known as a green card.
- Refugees: these are people who are trying to escape dangers in their home countries, such as wars or persecution.
- Illegal Immigrants: these are people who came to the United States illegally and do not have immigration documents.

Immigration Today

- **Immigration** and **naturalization**, particularly in the twentieth century, have led to an increasingly **diverse** society
- The issue of immigration continues to be a topic of debate
- Today our government has established **quotas**, or a specific number, of immigrants from a certain country or region that are allowed in the country each year

Part II: Character Traits of a Good Citizen (CE.4 a-g)



Did You Know?

- Thoughtful and effective participation in civic life depends upon the exercise of **good citizenship**

Personal Traits of Good Citizens:

- **Trustworthiness** and **honesty**
- **Courtesy** and **respect** for the rights of others
- **Responsibility, accountability, and self-reliance**
- Respect for the law
- **Patriotism**
- Participation in the **school** and/or **local community**
- Participation in **elections** as an informed voter

Effective participation in civic life can include:

- Formulating **questions**
- Analyzing **information** from a variety of sources
- Expressing a **position**
- **Devising** and **implementing** a plan
- Practicing thoughtful **decision making** in personal, financial, and civic matters (e.g. voting, civic issues)

Part III: Civic Duties & Responsibilities (CE.3 c-e)



Civic Duties

- For government to be effective, citizens must fulfill their **civic duties**
- Duties of Citizens:
 - **Pay Taxes**
 - **Obey Laws**
 - **Serve** in the **armed forces**, if called
 - **Serve** on a **jury** or as a witness in court, when summoned
 - **Education**
- Citizens who choose not to fulfill these civic duties face **legal consequences**



To help remember your Civic Duties, think **POSSE**

Pay taxes, Obey Laws, Serve in the armed forces, Serve on a jury, Education

Civic Responsibilities

- A basic responsibility of citizenship is to **contribute** to the **common good**
- Civic responsibilities are fulfilled by **choice**; they are **voluntary**
- Responsibilities of Citizens:
 - **Register** and **vote**
 - Hold **elective** office
 - **Communicate** with **government officials** to influence government actions
 - Serve in **voluntary**, appointed government positions
 - Participate in political **campaigns**
 - Keep **informed** regarding current issues
 - Respect others' right to an **equal** voice in government

How do civic and social duties address community needs and serve the public good?

- A **democratic** society requires the **active** participation of its citizens
- Ways for citizens to participate in community service:
 - **Volunteer** to support democratic institutions (e.g. League of Women Voters)
 - Express concern about the **welfare** of the community as a whole (e.g. environment, public health and safety, education)
 - Help to make the community a **good** place to **work** and **live** (e.g. by becoming involved with public service organizations, tutoring, volunteering in nursing homes)

Part IV: First Amendment Freedoms & Due Process (CE.3 b/CE.10 d)



The First Amendment

- The **Constitution** of the United States of America establishes and protects the citizens' fundamental rights and liberties
- Few rights, if any, are considered **absolute**
- First Amendment Freedoms:
 - **Religion:** Government may not establish an official religion, endorse an official religion, or unduly interfere with the free exercise of religion
 - **Speech:** Individuals are free to express their opinions and beliefs
 - **Press:** The press has the right to gather and publish information, including that which criticizes the government
 - **Assembly:** Individuals may peacefully gather
 - **Petition:** Individuals have the right to make their views known to public officials



To help remember the 1st Amendment, think the 1st Amendment **RAPPS**
Religion, Assembly, Press, Petition, Speech

Due Process

- The right to due process of law is outlined in the **5th** and **14th** Amendments to the **Constitution** of the United States of America
- Due Process of Law: the constitutional **protection** against **unfair** governmental actions and laws
- Due Process Amendments:
 - **5th Amendment** – prohibits the **national** government from acting in an unfair manner
 - **14th Amendment** – prohibits **state** and **local** governments from acting in an unfair manner
- The **Supreme Court** has extended the guarantees of the **Bill of Rights**, based upon the due process clause