

Citizenship and Civic Participation



Objective

In this lesson, you will

Citizenship

As a whole, citizenship has these qualities:

- A citizen is a legally recognized member in a self-governing _____.
- Citizenship confers full membership in a self-governing community: no _____ of citizenship or legally recognized states of _____ citizenship are tolerated.
- Citizenship confers certain rights and privileges.
- Citizenship confers _____ rights under the law (such as the right to vote, to serve on a jury, etc.).
- Citizenship is not dependent on inherited, involuntary groupings such as _____, ethnicity, nor ancestral _____.

Who is a U.S. Citizen

A U.S. citizen is either a citizen by _____ or a _____ citizen. Anyone else visiting or living in the United States is considered a _____.

A citizen by birth is:

- anyone born in the _____ or in a _____ such as Puerto Rico or Guam.
- a person who has at least one _____ who is a U.S. citizen.

A naturalized citizen is:

- a person who moved to the United States from another _____ and followed all the required steps and procedures of the _____.

A noncitizen is:

- any person from another country who _____ or lives _____ in the United States.

Noncitizens have been given the right to live permanently in the United States and are called _____.

Comparing Types of Citizenship

Both U.S. citizens by birth and naturalized citizens have the same rights, with one exception: Naturalized citizens can never be _____ or _____ of the United States.

Permanent residents:

- have the right to _____ and _____ in the United States.
- are eligible for _____ such as Social Security and education assistance.
- cannot _____ in federal and state elections and in most local elections.
- cannot run for _____ or for most state and local offices.

Rights of Citizens

Citizens of the United States have rights that are protected by the _____. These rights include the right to _____, the _____ of private property, the freedom of _____, the freedoms of speech and thought, and many others.

Because personal, _____, and economic rights _____, it is quite difficult to determine where one right ends and another right begins. No problem exists when these rights work together to _____ one another. Problems _____, however, when personal, political, and economic rights are at odds.

Many legal scholars spend their entire careers writing about the _____ and _____ of rights. Likewise, striking the right balance between rights is a primary concern of legislators, _____, and _____.

Criteria used in determining what limits should be placed on certain rights include the following:

- clear and present danger
- national security
- libel or slander
- public safety



Congress passed the USA Patriot Act on October 21, 2001. Supporters argued that fewer limits on law enforcement agencies increased the United States' ability to protect itself against terrorism. Detractors argued that the new powers violated Americans' rights and weakened the protection of civil liberties.

The Patriot Act:

- allows _____ criminal information throughout government and intelligence agencies
- allows one authorization to wiretap multiple devices
- allows " _____ and _____ " warrants to avoid alerting suspects
- allows easier access to business records in foreign intelligence investigations

Responsibilities of Citizens

Democracy cannot function without an informed, engaged, and participating population. US citizens have many rights, but citizenship also bears certain responsibilities.

Personal Responsibilities

Personal responsibilities are the flip side of personal _____; they relate to the way individuals _____ not in the _____ sphere but in their _____ lives.

Although these responsibilities are private, they affect society as a whole. Because of this effect on society, the government has an interest in promoting certain _____.

Public discussions of personal responsibility occur often, especially in debates about _____ programs such as Temporary Aid to Needy Families and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (aka _____). Government aid programs ensure that people receive _____ to get out of a bad spot while also cultivating a greater sense of personal _____ over time.

Civic Responsibilities

In contrast to personal responsibilities, civic responsibilities entail the _____ and voluntary behaviors that make a _____ system function.

_____ responsibilities include:	_____ responsibilities include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• obeying the law• paying taxes• serving jury duty, if called	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• voting• being well-informed• holding elective office• serving in the military

Voting might be one of the most important rights shared by US citizens. While voting does not give citizens control over the government, it acts as the vehicle by which they state their _____ on public policy.

Civil Disobedience

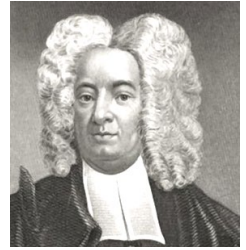
Civil disobedience is the _____ to obey the law in an effort to _____ in government policy or legislation that is deemed unjust. Civil disobedience involves the use of passive resistance or other _____ means of protest. Those who engage in civil disobedience often risk imprisonment, violent retaliatory acts, and status as a social outcast in their efforts to change society.

In general, practitioners of civil disobedience adhere to several key principles:

- peaceful and often _____ acts of protest
- turning the other cheek to acts of verbal or physical _____
- quietly or limply resisting arrest (or voluntarily submitting to arrest if the former becomes impossible)

Civic Participation

The United States has a long tradition of civic participation. For example, consider the Pilgrims, a group who left England because of _____ persecution in 1620 and traveled to America aboard the Mayflower. This group voluntarily created the _____, which outlined the basic principles by which the new Plymouth colony would be governed.



Cotton Mather, a Puritan minister, also played an influential role during the Colonial period. Mather preached the value of associations and collective voluntary action in support of _____ causes.

De Tocqueville on American Civic Participation

Alexis de Tocqueville stated that "the position of America is therefore quite _____, and it may be believed that no democratic people will ever be placed in a similar one."



De Tocqueville's writings were not filled entirely with praise for US democracy, however.

In his view, if the desire for personal _____ and "physical gratifications" became too strong in too many people, American civic life would _____ and so too would _____.

Voter Turnout

Voter turnout can be defined as the number of people who voted in an election _____ by the number of people who were _____ to vote.



In general, all citizens age _____ and older are considered eligible voters, though states add a number of different regulations on voter _____, including voter identification requirements and restrictions for convicted felons (persons convicted of a crime).

The official turnout rate in US elections remains considerably _____ than in other democratic countries, and it has _____ over time.

There are several reasons that voter turnout in the United States is low:

- the difficulty of _____ to vote
- the difficulty in obtaining an _____ ballot
- the _____ of elections
- the attitudes of voters, such as apathy and alienation
- the need to take _____ off from work to vote
- the _____ influence of political parties

People from lower _____ groups, groups with less education, and minority groups typically participate in voting at _____ rates.

Younger people also vote in _____ numbers than older Americans.

The low rates of voter turnout in these groups means they are significantly less well represented by election outcomes, and they carry _____ weight in decisions made by elected officials.

Political Associations and Groups

Citizens can also fulfill their civic duties by forming or joining an association or some other citizens' group.

Interest Groups

Interest groups are political organizations that are devoted to advancing specific causes.

Some are _____-issue groups, like the National Rifle Association (NRA) or the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue. Others are _____-issue groups, like the National Organization for Women (NOW), which is concerned with a _____ of issues relating to legal and economic equity for women. Interest groups seek to influence _____ and the _____ process in many different ways: they lobby, or attempt to exert influence on, Congress, the executive branch, and the courts; they lobby at the _____ level to mobilize _____ to pressure the government; they conduct protest activities; they _____ and rate political candidates; and they form _____ committees (PACs) to contribute money to election campaigns.

Successful interest groups share three qualities: _____ and often _____ leaders, good sources of _____, and active and committed _____.

Political Action Committees

A political action committee (PAC) forms when a private group organizes to _____ or defeat government officials in order to promote legislation, often supporting the group's special _____.

Civic Organizations

These groups focus on promoting the civic and _____ interests of their members, often stay out of partisan _____ or governing, and work to improve the _____ where their members live and work.

Summary

What are some of the responsibilities of United States citizens?