

The Obligations, Responsibilities, and Rights of Citizens

1. U.S. Citizenship
 - a. Birthright citizenship
 - i. Born on U.S. Soil
 - ii. Born to at least 1 U.S. citizen
 - b. Naturalization process
 - i. Be at least 18 years old
 - ii. Lawful permanent resident
 - iii. Live in the U.S. for at least 5 years
 - iv. Of “good character”
 - v. Read and write English
 - vi. Take test on U.S. history and government
 - vii. Take oath of allegiance
2. Rights of Citizenship
 - a. No Bill of Attainder (punishment without a trial), peacetime suspension of writ of habeas corpus (order by court to see if imprisonment is lawful) or ex post facto laws (laws made after the fact)
 - b. Individual rights guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights
 - c. Amendments guaranteed the right to vote: 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th
 - d. Exclusive rights of U.S. citizens
 - i. Right to vote in U.S. elections
 - ii. Right to carry U.S. passport
 - iii. Right to hold many government jobs
3. Responsibilities of Citizens (SHOULD do)
 - a. Be informed about public affairs
 - b. Vote in elections
 - c. Join a political party
 - d. Run for political office
 - e. Serve on local committees
 - f. Attend public meetings
 - g. Petition officials
 - h. Volunteer for service projects
4. Obligations of Citizens (MUST do)
 - a. Obey laws
 - b. Pay taxes
 - c. Serve on jury if summoned
 - d. Register with Selective Services (men only)