

Civics and Economics

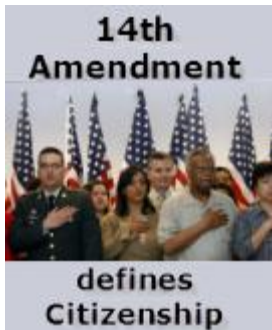
CE.3 & CE.4 Study Guide

STANDARD CE.3A -- BECOMING A CITIZEN

The processes by which an individual becomes a citizen of the United States.

A **citizen** is an individual with certain rights and duties under a government and who, by birth or by choice, owes allegiance to that government.

How does an individual become a citizen?



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**
- By **naturalization**

Immigration and **naturalization**, particularly in the twentieth century, have led to an increasingly **diverse society**.

To become a citizen through **naturalization**, a person must demonstrate **knowledge of American history** and principles and the ability to read, speak, and write words in ordinary usage in the **English language**.

STANDARD CE.3B -- CITIZENSHIP'S RIGHTS & DUTIES

First Amendment freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition, and the rights guaranteed by due process and equal protection of the laws.

The Constitution of the United States of America establishes and protects the citizens' **fundamental rights and liberties**.

Few rights, if any, are considered **absolute**.

*What **fundamental rights and liberties** are guaranteed in the **First and Fourteenth Amendments** to the Constitution of the United States of America?*

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.



Fourteenth Amendment

- Extends the **due process** protection to actions of the states

STANDARD CE.3C -- DUTIES OF CITIZENSHIP

The duties of citizenship, including obeying the laws, paying taxes, defending the nation, and serving in court.

For government to be effective, citizens must fulfill their civic duties.

*What **civic duties** are expected of all citizens?*

Duties of citizens

- Obey **laws**
- Pay **taxes**
- Serve in the **armed forces**, if called
- Serve on a **jury** or as a witness in court, when summoned

Citizens who choose not to fulfill these civic duties face **legal consequences**.

STANDARD CE.3D

-- RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENSHIP

The responsibilities of citizenship, including

- registering and voting
- communicating with government officials
- participating in political campaigns
- keeping informed about current issue
- respecting differing opinions in a diverse society

A basic **responsibility** of citizenship is to contribute to the **common good**.

What are the ways individuals demonstrate responsible citizenship?

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



STANDARD CE.3E

-- COMMUNITY NEEDS

Civic and social duties address community needs and serve the public good.

A **democratic society** requires the active **participation** of its citizens.

In what ways do citizens participate in community service?

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., as related to 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).

STANDARD CE.4A-G

-- GOOD CITIZENSHIP

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

How do individuals demonstrate thoughtful and effective participation in civic life?

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)