

CHAPTER 2

CITIZENSHIP & THE

CONSTITUTION

Section 3

“Rights and Responsibilities of
Citizenship”

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Describe how a person can become a U.S. citizen.
- 2) Identify some of the most important responsibilities of citizenship.
- 3) Evaluate why citizens should be involved with their community and government.

Becoming a U.S. Citizen

- People become citizens in several ways:
 - 1. Born in the U.S. or one of its territories
 - 2. Naturalized citizen: a person born in another country who has been granted citizenship
 - A. One of parents is U.S. citizen
 - B. Parents not U.S. citizens - move to U.S. & apply

Immigrants

- People who permanently move to a new country
- Legal immigrants have many of same rights as citizens, but cannot vote or hold public office
 - Government can DEPORT (return to their country of origin) any immigrant who breaks the law

Naturalized Citizens

- Can lose their citizenship
- Cannot become president or vice president

Naturalized Citizens (cont.)

- Legal immigrants over 18 years may petition for naturalization after living in the U.S. for 5 years
- Must be able to support themselves financially (or must have a sponsor)
- Must be law-abiding and of good moral character

Naturalized Citizens (cont.)

- Must be able to read, write, speak English
- Must have basic understanding of U.S. history and government
- Must have a background check
- Must appear before a naturalization court and take an oath of allegiance
 - All minors of new citizen become citizens

Duties/Responsibilities of Citizens:

- 1. Know your rights
- 2. Know the limits of your rights
- 3. Respect the rights of others
- 4. Exercise the right to vote
- 5. Study issues & candidates to make responsible choices

Duties/Responsibilities of Citizens: (cont.)

- 6. Take a stand on political and community issues (be peaceful & truthful)
- 7. Keep informed about national and community issues
- 8. Serve on juries when called
- 9. Serve at voter booths (polling places) when called

Duties/Responsibilities of Citizens: (cont.)

- 10. Pay taxes
- 11. Obey the laws
- 12. Volunteer your time and talents to help others & improve the community
- 13. Defend your nation in time of war
- 14. Register for the draft (all men at age of 18 years)

Duties/Responsibilities of Citizens: (cont.)

- 15. Respecting authority figures
- 16. Know what the laws are
- 17. Duty to testify in court if needed
- 18. Citizens may campaign for candidates and issues

Political Action Committees

- (PACs) - groups that collect money to give to candidates who support certain issues

Duties of President

- 1. Carries out laws of nation
- 2. Oversees departments, agencies, & commissions that carry out the laws
- 3. Directs foreign policy
- 4. Appoints ambassadors
- 5. Makes treaties

Duties of President (cont.)

- 6. Enters into Executive Agreements with other heads of state
- 7. Commander in chief of military
- 8. Chief legislator that suggests new bills
- 9. Can veto bills passed by Congress

Duties of President (cont.)

- 10. Living symbol of the nation, that welcomes foreign dignitaries & makes speeches
- 11. Chief symbol of the condition of the nation
- 12. Head of his political party
- 13. Appoints federal judges