

Obligations and Responsibilities

The Critical Role of Civic Participation

Benchmark: SS.7.C.2.2 Evaluate the obligations citizens have to obey laws, pay taxes, defend the nation, and serve on juries.

Also assesses: SS.7.C.2.3 Experience the responsibilities of citizens at the local, state, or federal levels.

SS.7.C.2.14 Conduct a service project to further the public good.

Clarifications/Objectives:

- Students will define citizenship as stated in the Fourteenth Amendment.
- Students will describe the process of becoming a naturalized citizen.
- Students will evaluate the impact of the naturalization process on society, government, or the political process.

Time: One class period

Materials:

- Obligations and Responsibilities PowerPoint
- Computer
- Projector

Lesson Preparation

- Review all handouts and PowerPoints
- Print and review the PowerPoint in “notes view”. The PowerPoint includes notes to guide the lesson.

Lesson Overview

Warm Up: View the video about what it means to be a citizen. This video has been used in the presentation for Benchmark 2.1, but will provide a foundation for students about civic participation.

Using the PowerPoint explain the difference between an obligation (or duty) and a responsibility. Emphasize that an obligation carries a legal requirement where a responsibility does not. Ask students to provide examples of an obligation and responsibilities. The PowerPoint will also provide examples. Explain “common good” and how it impacts the fulfillment of obligations and responsibilities.

Have student engage in a small group discussion. Students should discuss five ways they support the common good in their communities. Debrief by having students share their list from their group discussion.

Test your knowledge: The PowerPoint will provide a scenario and students will need to decide if it is presenting an obligation or a civic responsibility. If it is an obligation, students should go to the left side of the room. If it is a responsibility, students should go to the right side of the room. Ask students to explain their choice each time and provide the correct answer on the PowerPoint slide.

Have a class discussion about the importance of civic participation and its impact on society, the government, and the political process.

Check for Understanding The final slide will include a question from the End of Course Exam Item Specifications book. Have the students independently write down their answer and ask student to explain how they made their decision.

Extension Activity: Have students create/conduct a service project that would further the public good. After identifying problems in your local community, consider various volunteer activities. For example: campus clean up, donation of items to a local shelter, community volunteer opportunities.