

CITIZENSHIP

Teacher Resource

WHAT IS CITIZENSHIP?

Helping my neighbor, community and nation.

BENCHMARKS

- ✓ **HE.68.R.3.2** Explain and develop ways to apply leadership skills in the school and the community.
- ✓ **HE.68.R.3.3** Identify the importance of volunteerism in positively affecting the community and nation.
- ✓ **HE.68.R.3.4** Identify ways to participate in our constitutional republic through public policy, voting and leadership positions.

PURPOSE

- These interactive activities will help your students explore the characteristic of **citizenship** and make good choices that help the school, community and nation. Share the suggested introduction with your students, choose one or more of the activities below, and conclude with the suggested wrap-up. Feel free to modify or revisit activities throughout the week to continue reinforcing **citizenship**.



Suggested Introduction:

“You are familiar with **citizenship** and the importance of making good choices that help our community and nation. Today, we are going to explore **citizenship** and ways we can use our leadership skills and good character to help our community and nation. **Citizenship** requires being an active member in your school, community and nation. It means acting responsibly and serving the common good. By participating in things like voting, volunteering or helping classmates, you’re contributing to a stronger, more supportive society where everyone can thrive.”



Activities to Build Citizenship:

1 Class Election

Introduce students to the concept of voting by holding an election in the classroom. Students can vote on class activities, school improvement projects, a mock presidential election or who should lead a specific event. Reflect on the importance of voting in a representative government, how it helps in decision-making and how every citizen’s voice counts. This activity could be extended by inviting a guest from the local supervisor of elections office, or sharing books and articles about the importance of voting.

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GRADES
6–8



Activities to Build Citizenship (Continued):

2 Letters of Gratitude

Challenge students to write “Gratitude Grams” to school staff, community helpers, veterans or even senior citizens in a local retirement home. Host a “Gratitude Day” where students deliver the letters or volunteer to help. Have students reflect on how showing appreciation for others’ service demonstrates good **citizenship** through a writing project, such as a class newspaper.

3 Interview a Community Leader

Have students interview a community leader about what it means to be a good citizen and leader within a community. Students can present their findings to the class and discuss how they can apply what they have learned to their own lives. Consider having students produce a class newspaper and include the interviews.

Examples of community leaders include:

- Police officers
- Firefighters
- Local government officials
- Principals
- Teachers
- Judges



Suggested Wrap-Up:

“Today, we have explored the importance of **citizenship** and the various roles that make us good citizens. How can you apply **citizenship** in your everyday life? Whether it’s helping a neighbor, joining a community project or learning about important issues, you can make a difference in the world!”