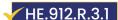# CITIZENSHIP
Teacher Resource

WHAT IS CITIZENSHIP?

Helping my neighbor, community and nation.

BENCHMARKS

✓ **HE.912.R.3.1** Identify benefits of voting, volunteering, mentoring and seeking leadership positions. Clarification: Student government, school clubs and volunteering in the community.

✓ **HE.912.R.3.2** Analyze ways a leader can inspire confidence and motivate others.

PURPOSE

▶ These interactive activities will help your students explore the characteristic of citizenship and the benefits of voting, volunteering, mentoring and seeking leadership positions in the 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:

"Today, we are going to explore citizenship and ways we can contribute to the community and nation. As a citizen, you have rights, such as freedom of speech and the ability to vote, but you also have responsibilities, such as staying informed, respecting others' rights and participating in civic duties. Citizenship is about more than just following laws; it's about taking an active role in shaping the society you live in. Whether that's through voting, volunteering or advocating for positive change, being a good citizen ensures that your voice is part of the decisions that impact your future and the world around you."

Activities to Build Citizenship:

1 Citizenship: Limited Preparation Speech

Hold a limited preparation speech forum by assigning each student a prompt related to citizenship. Allow 5 minutes for students to research their topics and prepare speeches using notes or approved resources. They should outline key points, examples and a strong conclusion. Each student will deliver a 2–3 minute speech presenting his or her viewpoint and supporting ideas. Speeches should include an introduction, clear main points and conclusion. After each speech, allow a classmate 30 seconds to briefly respond with a question, counterpoint or comment followed by a 30 second reply from the speaker. After all speeches are delivered, hold a class discussion about the key points and how the different aspects of citizenship, such as voting and volunteering, contribute to a functioning society.

Possible prompts include:

- Is the right to privacy more important than national security?
- Should the United States require mandatory military service for all citizens?
- Should the voting age be raised to 21?

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Activities to Build Citizenship (Continued):

2 Citizenship Campaign

Have students design a campaign to promote the benefits of volunteering or mentoring within the school. This could involve creating posters and video content that encourage students' peers to get involved. After the campaign, have students discuss the impact of their efforts and the challenges of motivating others to act. Students can analyze which messages were most effective in inspiring participation and why.

3 Research Project

Divide the class into three groups and assign each group one of the following tasks:

- List and define the responsibilities of a good citizen.
- Research the process of registering to vote.
- List ways to communicate with public officials and research the local, state and national representatives for the local community.

Have each group research their topic and present their findings to the class. After the presentation, have students write a reflection on the personal and community benefits of volunteering.

Suggested Wrap-Up:

"You've been learning about the importance of citizenship throughout your childhood. As you move beyond high school, how can you apply these strategies in your everyday life? Remember, good citizenship fosters stronger communities, promotes justice and ensures a better future for everyone. As you step into adulthood, your role as a citizen becomes even more significant, giving you the opportunity to shape the world you want to live in."

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