

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Describe good citizenship activities.

Objectives:

- A. Define good citizenship.
- B. Describe how good citizenship affects you at your job.
- C. Describe how good citizenship affects the company you work for.

---

### MODULE 9A: INFORMATION SHEET

*TO THE STUDENT:* Read and study this information sheet and complete the student activities at the end.

---

#### What is Citizenship?

In American Democracy each citizen is a full and equal member of a self governing community endowed with fundamental rights and entrusted with responsibilities. Both the government and the citizens are responsible for the protection of the rights of individuals and for the promotion of the common good.

It is a fundamental responsibility of the citizen to see that government serves the purposes for which it was created. In order to fulfill this role, individuals need to understand what citizenship means in American constitutional democracy.

#### What traits of private and public character are important to the preservation and improvement of American constitutional democracy?

American constitutional democracy requires the responsible self-governance of each individual; one cannot exist without the other. Traits of private character such as moral responsibility, self-discipline, and respect for individual worth and human dignity are essential to its well-being.

American constitutional democracy cannot accomplish its purposes, however, unless its citizens are inclined to participate thoughtfully in public affairs. Traits of public character such as public spiritedness, civility, respect for law, critical mindedness, and a willingness to negotiate and compromise are indispensable for its vitality.

These traits of private and public character also contribute to the political efficacy of the individual, the healthy functioning of the political system, and the individual's sense of dignity and worth.

Civility—treating other persons respectfully, regardless of whether or not one agrees with their viewpoints; being willing to listen to other points of view; avoiding hostile, abusive, emotional, and illogical argument.

Respect for the rights of other individuals—having respect for others' right to an equal voice in government, to be equal in the eyes of the law, to hold and advocate diverse ideas, and to join in associations to advance their views.

Respect for law—willingness to abide by laws, even though one may not be in complete agreement with every law; willingness to work through peaceful, legal means to change laws which one thinks to be unwise or unjust.

Honesty—willingness to seek and express the truth.

Open mindedness—considering others' points of view.

Critical mindedness—having the inclination to question the validity of various positions, including one's own.

Negotiation and compromise—making an effort to come to agreement with those with whom one may differ, when it is reasonable and morally justifiable to do so.

Persistence—being willing to attempt again and again to accomplish worthwhile goals.

Civic mindedness—paying attention to and having concern for public affairs.

Compassion—having concern for the well-being of others, especially for the less fortunate.

Patriotism—being loyal to the values and principles underlying American constitutional democracy, as distinguished from jingoism and chauvinism.

Courage—the strength to stand up for one's convictions, when conscience demands.

Tolerance of ambiguity—the ability to accept uncertainties that arise, e.g., from insufficient knowledge or understanding of complex issues or from tension among fundamental values and principles.

**What should good citizenship mean to you?**

- Being honest and truthful.
- Respecting authority.
- Respecting property of others.
- Always doing ones best.
- Not stealing.
- Possessing skills to live and work peaceably in society and not resorting to violence to settle disputes.
- Taking personal responsibility to family and community.
- Taking personal responsibility to earn a living.
- Treating others as you wish to be treated.
- Respecting the national flag, the constitution of the United States and its laws.
- Respecting the laws of the local community and the state.
- Respecting one's parents, home and elders.
- Respecting oneself.
- Respecting the rights of others to have their own views and religious beliefs.
- Treating everyone equally no matter what their ethnic heritage or the color of their skin.

**How should good citizenship affect you at your job?**

- Earn the respect of your supervisors.
- Earn the respect of your peers.
- Earn the respect of customers.
- Helps you when it is time for job evaluation.
- Helps when it's time for pay raises.
- Helps when it's time for promotions.

**How does good citizenship affect the company you work for?**

- Creates a friendly, working environment.
- Increases production if everyone gets along.
- Customers return if they are treated with respect and courtesy.
- Business runs smoother if everyone practices good citizenship. A smooth running business means more stable, better paying jobs.
- Projects a better image for the company in the community.

---

**MODULE 9A: STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

*TO THE STUDENT: Read and study the information sheet and complete the following activities.*

---

**Activity 1: Answer the following questions.**

1. What is a Citizen?

**True or False?**

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Americans are both citizens of their state and their country.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship is a legally recognized membership in a self governing community.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship is dependent on inherited, involuntary groupings such as race, ethnicity, or ancestral religion.
5. In order to become a citizen, you should:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Be a resident of the United States for three years.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Have knowledge of the history of the United States.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Be able to read, write and speak the English language.

---

**Activity 2: Write the correct word in the following sentences.**

What civic dispositions or traits of private and public character are important to the preservation and improvement of American constitutional democracy?

**WORD BANK**

|                                       |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Civility                              | Persistence            |
| Respect for the rights of individuals | Civic Mindedness       |
| Respect for the Law                   | Compassion             |
| Honesty                               | Patriotism             |
| Open Mindedness                       | Courage                |
| Critical Mindedness                   | Tolerance of Ambiguity |
| Negotiation and Compromise            |                        |

1. A willingness to seek and express truth is called \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Having the ability to accept uncertainties that arise, e.g., from insufficient knowledge or understanding of complex issues or from tension among fundamental values and principles is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Having concern for the well-being of others, especially for the less fortunate is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Having respect for others' right to an equal voice in government, to be equal in the eyes of the law, to hold and advocate diverse ideas, and to join in associations to advance their views is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Being willing to attempt again and again to accomplish worthwhile goals is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Being loyal to the values and principles underlying American constitutional democracy, as distinguished from jingoism and chauvinism is \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Treating other persons respectfully, regardless of whether or not one agrees with their viewpoints; being willing to listen to other points of view; avoiding hostile, abusive, emotional, and illogical argument is called \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Considering others' points of view is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Paying attention to and having concern for public affairs is called \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Willingness to abide by laws, even though one may not be in complete agreement with every law; willingness to work through peaceful, legal means to change laws which one thinks to be unwise or unjust is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
11. The strength to stand up for one's convictions, when conscience demands is called \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Making an effort to come to agreement with those with whom one may differ, when it is reasonable and morally justifiable to do so is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Having the inclination to question the validity of various positions, including one's own is called \_\_\_\_\_.



---

**MODULE 9A: STANDARDS ADDRESSED IN THIS MODULE**

---

**Pennsylvania’s Academic Standards for Career Education and Work**

**13.3.11. Career Retention and Advancement**

- A. Evaluate personal attitudes and work habits that support career retention and advancement.

**Pennsylvania’s Academic Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening (RWSL)**

**1.1.11. Learning to Read Independently**

- E. Establish a reading vocabulary by identifying and correctly using new words acquired through the study of their relationships to other words. Use a dictionary or related reference.

**1.5.11. Quality of Writing**

- F. Edit writing using the conventions of language.
- Spell all words correctly.
  - Use capital letters correctly.
  - Punctuate correctly (periods, exclamation points, question marks, commas, quotation marks, apostrophes, colons, semicolons, parentheses, hyphens, brackets, ellipses).
  - Use nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions and interjections properly.
  - Use complete sentences (simple, compound, complex, declarative, interrogative, exclamatory and imperative).