

# Civics Chapter 3

## The Meaning of Citizenship

# Section 1: What It Means to Be a Citizen

- A **citizen** is a person with certain rights and duties under a government.
- Our constitution says that a citizen of the United States is a person who, by birth or choice, owes allegiances to this nation

# Section 1: What It Means to Be a Citizen

- You are legally an American citizen if any of the following statements are true.
  - You were born in the United States or in one of its territories.
  - At least one of your parents was a United States citizen when you were born
  - You have been **naturalized**, which means you have gone through the process of becoming a citizen.
  - You were less than 18 years old when your parents were naturalized.

# Section 1: What It Means to Be a Citizen

- The Naturalization Process
  - Step 1 – APPLICATION: The applicant submits an application to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. (USCIS)
  - Step 2 – EXAMINATION: The applicant must prove the following qualifications for citizenship (cont on next slide)

# Section 1: What It Means to Be a Citizen

- ~ Age 18 or older
- ~ Legal residence in the country for at least 5 years; in state for at least 3 months
- ~ Good moral character
- ~ Loyalty to the principles of the U.S. Constitution
- ~ Ability to read, write, and speak the English Language
- ~ Knowledge of the history and form of government of the United States

# Section 1: What It Means to Be a Citizen

- Step 3 – FINAL HEARING: The applicant appears before a citizenship court.
  - ~ USCIS responds to the application.
  - ~ A judge asks the applicant to take an oath of loyalty to the United States
  - ~ The applicant receives a certificate of citizenship

# Section 1: What It Means to Be a Citizen

- Naturalization
  - **Alien** is a citizen of one country who lives in another country. They cannot vote or hold government office.

# Section 1: What It Means to Be a Citizen

- Naturalized Citizens
  - Naturalized citizens have all the rights and duties of citizens by birth except the right to be President or Vice President.

# Section 1: What It Means to Be a Citizen

- The Office of Citizen
  - Each citizen holds a very important position of authority.
  - **Representatives:** people who are chosen to speak and act for their fellow citizens in government.
  - They have the power to make decisions and to pass laws.
  - We delegate – or lend – our powers to them.

# Section 1: What It Means to Be a Citizen

- HW
  - Write out question
  - Respond in full sentences
- A friend of your in another country hopes to move to America and become a naturalized citizen. She is unsure of how the naturalization process works. Using the information from this section, write a letter in which you describe the process that she will need to go through.

# Section 2: Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities

- Rights of Citizens – Listed below are some of the rights of American citizens.
  - The right to vote and to hold elected office
  - The right to say what you think in speech or in writing
  - The right to practice your own religion
  - The right to have a fair trial

# Section 2: Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities

- Duties of Citizens
  - Obeying the laws
  - Defending the nation
  - Serving on a jury or as a witness in court
  - Paying taxes
  - Attending school

# Section 2: Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities

- Obeying the Law
  - Your family and your classroom have rules that keep them running in an orderly way. A society's formal rules are called laws.

# Section 2: Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities

- The Rule of Law
  - In a democracy, no individual – even the President – is above the law. This concept of a government of laws, rather than of men and women, is called the **rule of law**. Officials must base their decisions on the law, not on personal opinion.

# Section 2: Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities

- Defending the Nation
  - The United States maintains armed services even in peacetime.
  - When you are 18 years old or older, you may volunteer to serve in the army, navy, air force, or marines.
  - Young men must register for military service when they reach age 18.
  - A man whose moral beliefs prohibit him from fighting may ask to be considered a conscientious objector.

# Section 2: Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities

- Serving on a Jury
  - Our constitution guarantees that anyone accused of a crime may have the case decided by a **jury of peers** – a group of ordinary citizens who hear the case and decide whether the accused person is innocent or guilty.

# Section 2: Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities

- Serving as a Witness
  - **Witnesses** are people who have seen events related to the crime or who have special information that may determine the guilt or innocence of the person on trial.

# Section 2: Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities

- Paying Taxes
  - A few students earn enough money at part-time jobs or through savings accounts or investments that they pay income tax to the government. Many students pay sales tax on items they buy such as clothes or CDs
  - As an adult you will pay local, state, and government taxes.

# Section 2: Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities

- Attending School
  - An important task of the schools is to give students the knowledge, skills, and experiences they need to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the “office of citizen.” Each of us must be educated about our history, our government, and the workings of our society.

# Section 2: Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities

- Responsibilities of Citizens
  - Responsibilities are fulfilled by choice – they are voluntary

# Section 2: Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities

- Working Toward the Common Good
  - The basic responsibility of citizens is to contribute to the **common good**, or the well-being of all members of society.

# Section 2: Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities

- Voting
  - The right to vote is one of the basic rights of American citizens and one of our most important responsibilities.
  - To make good decisions and vote wisely, citizens have the responsibility to inform themselves.

\*How do you inform yourself?

# Section 2: Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities

- Holding Government Office
  - The people who agree to hold government office are fulfilling another important responsibility of citizenship. They have accepted the responsibility of learning about the issues and trying to make decisions that are in the best interest of the people they represent.

# Section 2: Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities

- Participating in Election Campaigns
  - One important way to fulfill the responsibilities of citizenship is to help a **candidate**, or person running for office, in his or her election campaign.

\*How could you help?

# Section 2: Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities

- Influencing Government
  - Another way in which you can fulfill the “office of citizenship” is to persuade government to take action regarding a cause you believe in. Citizens of any age can influence government by expressing their opinions in letters to elected representatives and newspapers, and by speaking at city council and school board meetings. You can also join or create an organization that influences government.

# Section 2: Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities

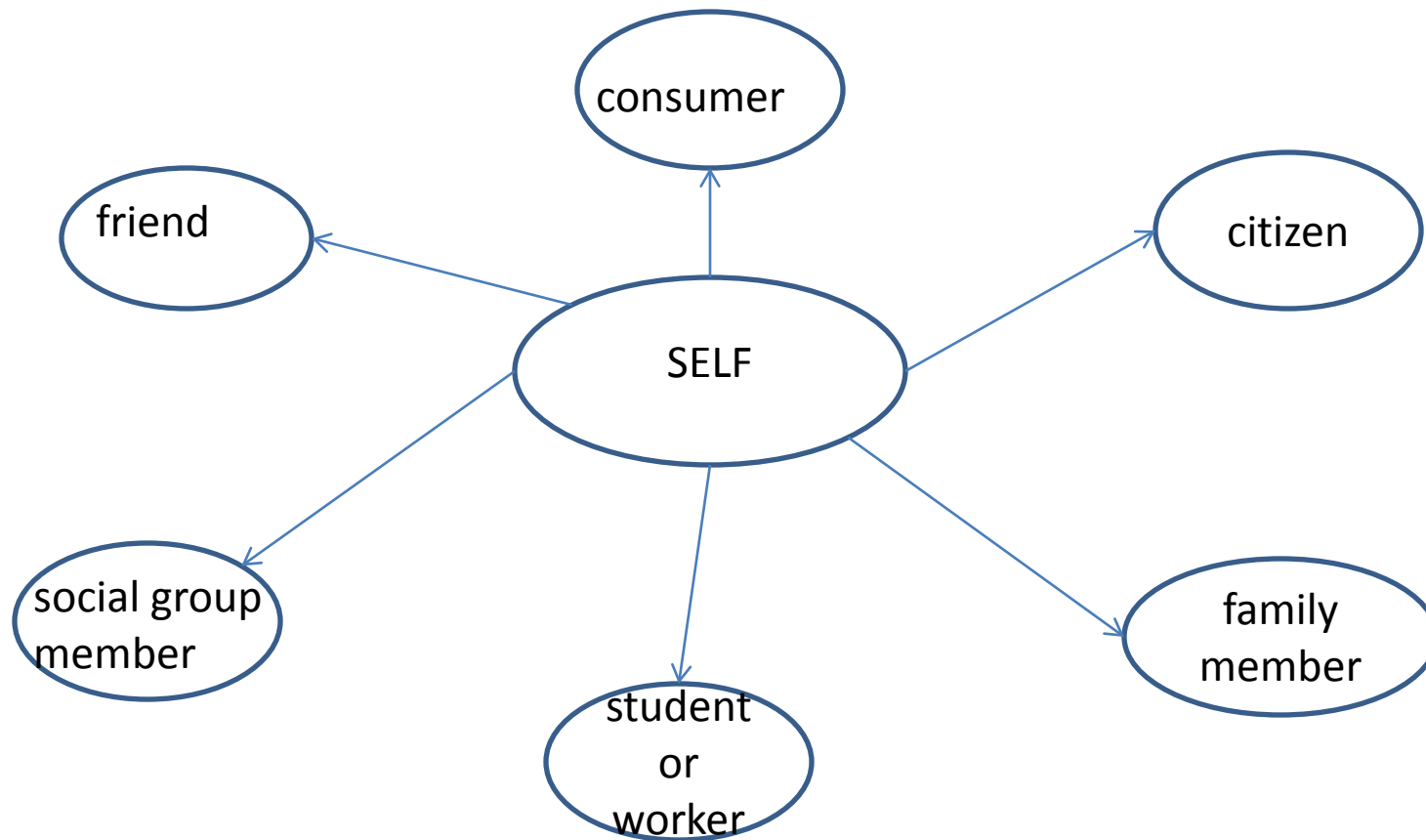
- Serving the Community
  - Each of us is responsible for doing whatever we can to make our communities better places to live in.

# Section 3: Citizenship and Our Other Roles in Society.

- Playing social roles
- **Social roles** are roles that people play in real life.

# Section 3: Citizenship and Our Other Roles in Society.

- Seven Social Roles – Examples?



# Section 3: Citizenship and Our Other Roles in Society.

- Our Many Social Roles
  - You play many different social roles in the course of the day and in the course of your life. You play some roles because you were born into them. You play other roles because you are required to play them. You choose for yourself your role as a member of a social group.

# Section 3: Citizenship and Our Other Roles in Society.

- Roles as Expected Behaviors
  - In each of your roles you behave differently. Your behavior is determined in part by the set of expectations that people have of how someone in that role should act.
  - If you want to be a member of a group, you will make an effort to learn the expected behaviors for that group.
  - The way you play a role also depends on how you want to play it and on the kind of person you are.

# Section 3: Citizenship and Our Other Roles in Society.

- Changing Roles
    - Sometimes a person plays the same role in different ways, depending on the situation.
    - Roles can change over time
- \*How?

# Section 3: Citizenship and Our Other Roles in Society.

- Overlapping Roles
    - As you think about your many roles, you will realize that sometimes you are fulfilling more than one at the same time.
- \*What is an example of this?

# Section 3: Citizenship and Our Other Roles in Society.

- Conflicting Roles
  - You may also find that the demands of your roles conflict with each other.
  - Often, being aware of the values that guide your behavior can be helpful in making a decision.

# Section 3: Citizenship and Our Other Roles in Society.

- Level of Participation
  - As you play your social roles, you will have to make choices about how actively you want to participate in a given role at any time. These choices, too, are based on your values and your sense of what is most important to you.

# Section 3: Citizenship and Our Other Roles in Society.

- Active Participation
  - For some people, playing the citizen role has high priority. When they are students, these people are the ones who take leadership roles in student government.
  - Adults for whom the citizen role has high priority may run for government office.
  - Other people spend less time playing the citizen role. Some are satisfied simply to keep informed, to vote, or perhaps to give money to support candidates and issues.

# Section 3: Citizenship and Our Other Roles in Society.

- Contributing to the Common Good.
- Being a responsible citizen is not limited to participating in political activities. Earlier in this chapter, you learned that the overall responsibility of every citizen is to contribute to the common good. Many people are making such a contribution when they play roles that they may not think of as citizen roles.

# Chapter 3: The Meaning of Citizenship

- HW

Quiz Tomorrow

- This quiz is a little longer than the last one and has a couple short answer.