

**GoodCharacter.com**  
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**Citizenship**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- What is social responsibility? What does it mean to be a good citizen?
- What does good citizenship have to do with the Golden Rule? What does it have to do with good character?
- Agree or disagree: I don't have any responsibility to my school, my community, my nation, or anything else. My only responsibilities are to myself.
- Is it important for citizens to voice their opinions and participate in the decision making process? Why, or why not?
- What makes your neighborhood or community a nice place to live? What could you do to make your neighborhood or community a better place?
- What do you think a good citizen is? In what ways are you a good citizen? What is a bad citizen?
- Do you have family members or friends who argue a lot? Do you ever feel caught in the middle? How do you feel?

**WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:**

Identify a problem in your community that needs to be fixed. What is the problem? Why is it a problem (what bad things happen because of this problem)? What needs to be done to fix the problem? Whose responsibility is it to fix the problem? What good will come of fixing the problem? Write this in a letter to the editor of your newspaper.

Write a speech describing the essential balance of rights and responsibilities in our democracy. Try to convince your fellow class-mates that in a democracy the preservation of our rights depends on our exercise of responsibility.

In ancient Greece, people felt that it was important for all people to try to leave Athens better than they found it. Write an essay in which you apply this principle to your own community.

Profile someone who you feel is the ultimate example of a good citizen. What makes this person so special? What changes did they bring about? What challenges did this person face, and how did they meet those challenges?

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