

## **Demo: Civics Alive** Foundations and Functions

Section 5 Obligations and responsibilities (Page 17 & 18)

This lesson is misleading and inaccurate and should clearly state the differences between individual rights and responsibilities as specified by Arizona Standards. This lesson should include this information which comes directly from the US Immigration Service:

### **What are the rights and responsibilities of U.S. Citizenship?**

The decision to apply for citizenship is a significant one and the pinnacle of immigration. The process of applying for U.S. citizenship begins with a Green Card. All eligible candidates must comply with the eligibility requirements and correctly complete and file Form N-400 - Application for U.S. Citizenship.

Citizenship is the common thread that connects all Americans. Throughout its history, the United States has welcomed newcomers from all over the world, whose countless contributions helped shape the country it is today. The United States is a nation of freedom, liberty, and equality. By choosing to become a U.S. citizen, applicants are making a commitment not only to the values (like the Bill of Rights) of the United States and its form of government, but also to uphold its constitution and defend the country if necessary.

Obtaining the American citizenship offers many benefits and equally important responsibilities. Below you will find several rights and responsibilities that all citizens should exercise and respect. Some of these responsibilities are legally required of every citizen, but all are essential to ensure that America remains a free and prosperous nation.

### **U.S. Citizen rights**

- Freedom to express yourself.
- Freedom to worship as you wish.
- Right to a prompt, fair trial by jury.
- Right to vote in elections for public officials.
- Right to apply for federal employment requiring U.S. citizenship.
- Right to run for elected office.
- Freedom to pursue "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

### **U.S. Citizen responsibilities**

- Support and defend the Constitution.
- Stay informed of the issues affecting your community.

- Participate in the democratic process.
- Respect and obey federal, state, and local laws.
- Respect the rights, beliefs, and opinions of others.
- Participate in your local community.
- Pay income and other taxes honestly, and on time, to federal, state, and local authorities.
- Serve on a jury when called upon.
- Defend the country if the need should arise.