



## Responsibilities and Obligations of Citizens Corners Activity & Vocabulary Review

# TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

### Benchmark

SS.7.C.2.2: Evaluate the obligations citizens have to obey laws, pay taxes, defend the nation, and serve on juries.

### Activity

Students will identify citizen obligations and responsibilities by listening to examples, making a decision and explaining their answers. For closure, students will complete a vocabulary activity. These activities should be completed after students have read and understand citizen responsibilities and obligations. The Vocabulary Matching activity can also be used as a reading guide while students read.

### Materials

- \* Duty or Responsibility? [Slideshow](#)
- \* Obligation/Duty and Responsibility Signs for the classroom
- \* Follow Up Questions
- \* Vocabulary Review handout

### Instructions

1. Post two signs “Obligation/Duty” and “Responsibility” on two walls in the classroom. Be sure there is space for students to move to both signs easily.
2. Explain to students that they are going to review what they know about citizen obligations and responsibilities by listening to statements read aloud and deciding whether that statement is an obligation or a responsibility.
3. Have students stand in the middle of the classroom and read the first statement from the [slideshow](#).
4. Instruct students walk to the sign in the classroom that applies to the statement.
5. Have students discuss their decision with 1 buddy.
6. Call on a student or pair of buddies to explain their answer. Use the follow up questions to allow for a quick class discussion. Be sure to share the correct answer.
7. Complete Steps 3-6 for the rest of the statements. Have students change buddies each time a new statement is read.
8. Pass out the Vocabulary Review. Instruct students to complete the handout individually as a check for understanding.

## Follow Up Questions




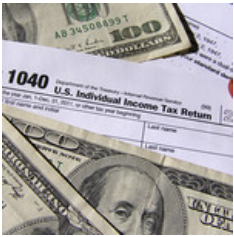

- \* Listen to all laws of the land - *Duty*;
  - *Example follow up: "Why is this a duty?" "Why is this so important?"*
- \* Volunteering in your communities - *Responsibility*;
  - *Example follow up: "Why is this only a responsibility?"*
- \* Serving with a group of other ordinary citizens to decide the outcome in a trial - *Duty*;
  - *Example follow up: Discuss it being a duty and ask students "What is this called?", looking for "Jury duty", "serving on a jury", "jury of peers"; "Why is this duty SO important for citizens to do?"*
- \* Helping someone who is running for office - *Responsibility*;
  - *Example follow up: "What is a person running for office called?" looking for "candidate"; can even ask "What are they called after they are in office?" looking for "representative, elected official, senator, etc."; "Why is this responsibility important?"*
- \* Voting - *Responsibility*;
  - *Example follow up: "This is a responsibility, but also a what?" looking for "right"; can also ask "Who can vote in federal elections?" looking for "only citizens"; "Why is this responsibility so important?"*
- \* Sign up to defend the nation - *Duty*;
  - *Example follow up: "What is this called?" looking for "selective service"*
- \* Pay money to the government once you get your first job - *Duty*;
  - *Example follow up: "What is this called?" looking for "paying taxes"; "Why is paying taxes important?"*
- \* Attend school - *Duty*;
  - *Example follow up: "What age do you HAVE to go to school until?" looking for "16" Why do you think this is a duty and not a responsibility?*

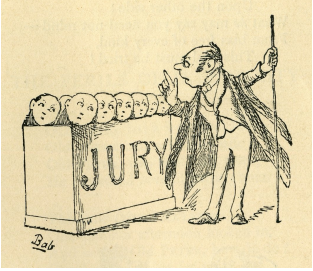



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Responsibilities and Obligations of Citizens Vocabulary Review Activity

**Directions:** Complete the graphic organizer below by filling in the gray box with the missing information for each vocabulary term. .

Vocabulary Word	Definition	Image
<p><b>Obligation or Duty of a Citizen</b></p>		
<p><b>Responsibility of a Citizen</b></p>		
	<p>There are federal, state, and local rules all must follow or face consequences.</p>	
<p><b>Selective Service</b></p>	<p>An agency of the federal government that maintains information on those who may be subject to a draft to defend the country.</p> <p>All males between the ages of 18-25 have to register for Selective Service.</p>	
<p><b>Paying Taxes</b></p>		
<p><b>Attending School</b></p>		

Vocabulary Word	Definition	Image
<p><b>Jury Duty Serving on a Jury</b></p>		
<p><b>Voting</b></p>		
	<p>Attending events such as a city council meeting or neighborhood watch group, gives a citizen an opportunity to be heard by public officials.</p>	
<p><b>Petitioning the government</b></p>		
<p><b>Volunteering for political campaigns</b></p>		
<p><b>Community service</b></p>	<p>Community service helps the common good. It benefits everyone when a citizen sees a need in his or her community and takes that extra step to find the solution.</p>	