



Citizen You: SS.7.CG.2.1
Defining Citizenship
READING #3

Name: _____

Date: _____



SS.7.CG.2.1 Benchmark Clarification 3: Students will define permanent residency and explain its role in obtaining citizenship.

This material is adapted from resources developed by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

A **lawful permanent resident** is someone that has legally been granted the right to live in the United States permanently, but is not a citizen. Permanent residents continue to hold citizenship of another country. Permanent residence includes the right to work in the U.S. for most employers, or for oneself.

Lawful Permanent Residents may also be identified by using the following terms:

- Resident Alien
- LPR
- Permanent Resident
- Green Card Holder

Individuals seeking to become LPRs must establish the basis for “adjusting status” to lawful permanent residence. This simply means “What is the reason you are requesting to become a lawful permanent resident?” This can be for:

- Family
- Employment
- Education
- Humanitarian reasons (i.e., illness, political asylum, high-need occupation or expertise)
- The Diversity Immigrant Visa Program (DV Program)

Being a lawful permanent resident (LPR) for five or more years is most common path to U.S. citizenship through naturalization.

lawful permanent resident - someone who is legally and permanently living in the U.S., but not a citizen