



Citizen You: SS.7.CG.2.2  
**Citizen Obligations and Responsibilities**  
**READING #1**

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

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



**SS.7.CG.2.2 Benchmark Clarification 1:** Students will distinguish between an obligation or duty and a responsibility as it relates to citizenship. Responsibilities may include, but are not limited to, voting, attending civic meetings, petitioning government and running for office.

The United States government recognizes a **citizen** as a legal member of this country who is either born or **naturalized** in the United States. Being a U.S. citizen means that **obligations** and **responsibilities** must be met to support representative democracy and the proper role of government in our lives.

An obligation is something that a citizen is required to do by law. A responsibility is something that a citizen should do for the sake of the **common good**. Below are examples of obligations and responsibilities:

<b>Obligations of Citizens</b> <i>An action that is required by law</i>	<b>Responsibilities of Citizens</b> <i>An action that benefits the community/people</i>
Obeying laws	Voting
Paying taxes	Attending civic meetings
Defending the nation	Petitioning the government
Registering for <b>Selective Service</b>	Running for office
Serving on juries	Performing community service

**citizen** - a legal member of a state and/or country

**common good** - beliefs or actions that are seen as a benefit to the community rather than individual interests, also known as the public good

**naturalized** - a person who has gone through the process by which an immigrant becomes a citizen

**obligation** - a requirement, something a person has to do

**responsibility** - something a person should do

**Selective Service** - a system by which men ages 18 through 25 register with the U.S. government for military service