



Citizen You: SS.7.CG.2.2  
**Citizen Obligations and Responsibilities**  
**READING #5**

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

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



**SS.7.CG.2.2 Benchmark Clarification 5:** Students will identify the consequences or predict the outcome on society if citizens do not fulfill their obligations and responsibilities.

Each **citizen's obligations** and **responsibilities** have a major impact on society, government, and the political process.

Obligations of a Citizen	How does this Obligation Impact Society, Government, or the Political Process?
Obeying the laws	It is important to obey laws to have a safe community.
Paying taxes	Taxes make a difference in whether the government will be able to provide services to citizens.
Jury duty	Jury duty has a major impact on a citizen's right to a fair trial and on how the trial will turn out.
Defending the nation	People who defend the nation keep the country safe.

Responsibilities of a Citizen	How does this Impact Society, Government, or the Political Process?
Voting	Voting impacts elected leaders who make political decisions.
Attending civic meetings	Decisions that impact the government and society are made at civic meetings (for example, at a city council or school board meeting).
Petitioning government	Petitions can impact decisions made by the government and can bring about change in communities because citizens use petitions to communicate with the government.
Community service	Communities and neighborhoods are improved when people volunteer their time and skills.

If **citizens** did not fulfill their **responsibilities**, the United States would be a very different place.

Responsibilities of a Citizen	What are the Consequences if People do not Fulfill this Responsibility?
Voting	If people do not vote, the government will only represent those who do vote.

Attending civic meetings	If people do not participate in civic meetings, it is more difficult to get involved and know what is happening in the community and government.
Petitioning government	If people choose not to use this right, the government will assume that the people are happy with the government's decisions or that they don't care.
Community service	If people choose not to volunteer in their community, problems may be ignored and people who need help will not have their needs met.

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

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

**petitioning the government** - the right to ask the government to solve a problem or to express an opinion about how the government is being run

**responsibility** - something a person should do