

Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities



What does it mean to be a citizen?

- Holding the “office of citizen” means you are entitled to all the rights guaranteed to Americans by the Constitution.
- Who protects these rights?
- The courts
- American rights are based on a common set of values: justice, equality, freedom



Citizens' Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities

Rights

Duties

Responsibilities

Examples

Examples

Examples



The Rights of Citizens...

- ...are guaranteed by the Constitution.
- Examples
 - To vote and hold elected office
 - To say what you think in speech and writing
 - To practice your own religion
 - To have a fair trial
 - To be protected while in other countries



The Duties of Citizens...

- ...are required by law.
- Examples
 - To obey society's laws
 - To defend the nation against threats to peace and security (men must register for the draft at age 18)
 - To serve on a jury or as a witness in court
 - To pay taxes
 - To go to school



Citizenship and You



Defending the Nation

Our country requires armed forces to protect itself and help other countries in need of military aid. It is expected that citizens will help defend the nation by joining the armed forces.



Duties of Citizens

Serving on a Jury or as a Witness

A person's right to a fair trial when accused of a crime can be assured only when citizens participate in the process. Therefore, it is our duty to serve, when asked, as a juror or as a witness in a trial.



Attending School

Our society depends on our schools to teach citizens the knowledge and skills they will need when they become adults. Education helps ensure the survival of a society of responsible and active citizens.

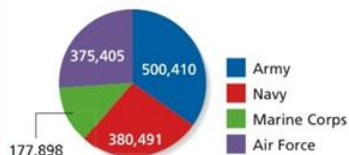


Paying Taxes

Without taxes, our local, state, and federal governments would not be able to pay for the services that make our lives better. When we pay sales tax on the meals we eat, we are doing our duty as American citizens.



Armed Forces Strength



SOURCE: Department of Defense, 2003

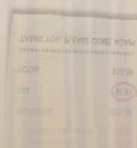


Obeying the Law

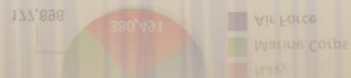
Laws protect people and help ensure that people treat each other in fair and peaceful ways. A driver's education class, for example, teaches you important motor vehicle laws. If drivers did not know and obey the laws, our streets and highways would be very dangerous places.

places:
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traffic and motor vehicles

American citizens
doing our duty as
citizens. We can't
pay taxes on the
have better. When
services that make our
the time to pay for the
these services and more



SOURCE: Department of Defense, 2003



The Responsibilities of Citizens...

- ...are expected by society but completely voluntary.
- Examples
 - To contribute to the common good
 - To learn about issues and take part in government (be informed and vote!)
 - To help candidates with their campaigns
 - To influence government by expressing opinions
 - To improve our communities & respect diversity (tolerance)

