

# Class Guide

*Lesson 23 - What are some important responsibilities of citizens?*

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

How can students be good citizens?

**Step 1 – Vocabulary Work.** Complete the vocabulary work necessary to understand this lesson. The vocabulary should be completed first. Terms to know:

*Citizen*

*Naturalized Citizen*

*Resident Aliens*

**Step 2 – Interactive Lecture.**

**Discussion Question:**

What are some important responsibilities of citizens?

**Step 3 – Small Group – Critical Thinking Exercise – What responsibilities go along with these rights?** Work in small groups. Each group should answer the questions about one of the rights listed below. Then each group should share its ideas with the class.

## Group 1: The Right to Freedom of Expression

Suppose you attend a meeting of students in your school. The purpose of the meeting is to suggest rules for the playground. Every student has the right to speak and to make suggestions.

1. What should be your responsibilities for the way you speak and what you say?
2. What should be your responsibilities toward the right of others to speak.
3. What responsibilities should the other students have to you and your right to speak?
4. Government may not unfairly limit your right to express your ideas freely. What responsibilities should you have that might go along with this right?
5. Suppose no one fulfilled the responsibilities that you have discussed. What might happen to our right to freedom of expression?

## Group 2: The Right to Freedom of Religion

Suppose you believe in a particular religion. You attend a church, meeting hall, mosque, or temple in your community.

1. What responsibilities should you have in the way you practice your religious beliefs.
2. What responsibilities should you have toward the right of other people to practice their religious beliefs?
3. What responsibilities should people who hold different religious beliefs have toward your right to practice your religious beliefs?
4. Government may not interfere with your right to believe as you wish. It may not unfairly limit your right to practice your religious beliefs.
5. Suppose no one fulfilled the responsibilities that you have discussed. What might happen to our right to freedom of religion?

<p align="center"><b>Group 3: The Right to the Equal Protection of the Laws</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Group 4: The Right to Due Process of Law</b></p>
<p>Suppose your city government officials are planning a picnic for the people who live in your community.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What responsibilities should officials have to you regardless of your age, gender, race, or religion?</li> <li>2. If you volunteer to help plan the city's picnic, what responsibilities should you have to others?</li> <li>3. Government is not permitted to favor some over others because of their age, gender, race, or religion. What responsibilities should you have that go along with this right?</li> <li>4. Suppose no one fulfilled the responsibilities that you have discussed. What might happen to our right to the equal protection of the laws?</li> </ol>	<p>Suppose someone accused you of doing something wrong in your school.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What responsibilities should the accuser have toward you?</li> <li>2. If you were the one who accused another student of doing something wrong, what responsibilities should you have toward her or him?</li> <li>3. Government must be fair to you when it is gathering information and making decisions. What responsibilities should you have that go along with this right.</li> <li>4. Suppose no one fulfilled the responsibilities that you have discussed. What might happen to our right to due process of law?</li> </ol>
<p align="center"><b>Group 5: The Right to Vote and Run for Public Office</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>GROUP NOTES</b></p>
<p>Suppose you are about to vote in a school election. You must choose between two people running for class president.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What responsibilities should you have?</li> <li>2. You have decided to vote for Michael. Your friends want to vote for Carter. What responsibilities should you have about their right to vote?</li> <li>3. What responsibilities should they have about your right to vote?</li> <li>4. When you are eighteen, you will have the right to vote in government elections. You will also have the right to run for some public offices. What responsibilities should go along with these rights?</li> <li>5. Suppose that no one fulfilled the responsibilities that you have discussed. What might happen to our right to vote?</li> </ol>	