

Citizens in Action

Read about citizenship, rights, and peaceful civic participation.

CE.6 "The student will apply history and social science skills to define citizenship by describing the processes by which an individual becomes a citizen of the United States..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each right or legal protection named in the passage. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside three peaceful ways people can work for change.

Rights, Citizenship, and Change

- ① Citizenship connects people to the United States and its civic responsibilities. Many people are citizens at birth because they are born in the United States and are subject to its jurisdiction. Others become citizens through naturalization. An eligible lawful permanent resident applies, completes biometrics, attends an interview, and takes English and civics tests unless an exception applies. The civics test checks knowledge of U.S. government and history. After approval, the person takes the Oath of Allegiance and becomes a citizen.
- ② The Bill of Rights and later amendments limit government power. The First Amendment protects freedom of religion, speech, press, peaceful assembly, and petition. The Fourth Amendment protects people against unreasonable searches and seizures. Due process means government must use fair legal procedures before taking a person's life, liberty, or property. The Fifth Amendment includes this protection, and the Fourteenth Amendment applies due process to states and promises equal protection of the laws. In criminal cases, the Sixth Amendment protects rights such as a speedy public trial and a lawyer.
- ③ Civic participation can improve a community when people stay informed, listen to differing beliefs, and act peacefully. A resident might volunteer at a food pantry, attend a school board meeting, contact an elected official, sign a petition, or work on a political campaign. These actions can address public needs while allowing debate. Immigration policies have changed over U.S. history, affecting who may enter, live, or become a citizen. Today, immigration laws set rules for visas, lawful permanent residence, and naturalization. People can discuss policy changes respectfully and petition government leaders for change.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 After an eligible lawful permanent resident applies, name two steps in the naturalization process described in the passage.

2 Which First Amendment freedom lets people ask government leaders to change a policy? Which amendment protects against unreasonable searches and seizures?

3 What does due process require? Name the amendment that promises equal protection, and give one Sixth Amendment protection.

4 What have immigration policies affected over U.S. history? Name one peaceful civic action from the passage that can help address a public need.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences proposing a peaceful plan to address one community need. Name the need, use one First Amendment freedom, describe two civic actions, and explain how you will respect people with differing beliefs.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each right or legal protection named in the passage. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside three peaceful ways people can work for change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	After an eligible lawful permanent resident applies, name two steps in the naturalization process described in the passage.	Any two: completes biometrics, attends an interview, takes English and civics tests, or takes the Oath of Allegiance after approval.
2	Which First Amendment freedom lets people ask government leaders to change a policy? Which amendment protects against unreasonable searches and seizures?	Freedom of petition lets people ask for policy change. The Fourth Amendment protects against unreasonable searches and seizures.
3	What does due process require? Name the amendment that promises equal protection, and give one Sixth Amendment protection.	Due process requires fair legal procedures before government takes life, liberty, or property. The Fourteenth Amendment promises equal protection. A Sixth Amendment protection includes a speedy public trial or a lawyer.
4	What have immigration policies affected over U.S. history? Name one peaceful civic action from the passage that can help address a public need.	They have affected who may enter, live, or become a citizen. Peaceful actions include volunteering, attending a school board meeting, contacting an elected official, signing a petition, or working on a political campaign.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our neighborhood needs safer crosswalks near the library. I will use my freedom to petition by speaking at a peaceful city council meeting about painted crosswalks. I will also read city traffic reports and volunteer with neighbors to count traffic near the library. I will listen respectfully to residents who have different ideas about cost or location.

Accept accurate paraphrases of passage details for the short answers. For the open response, accept any realistic peaceful plan that includes all four requested elements and does not claim a right permits harm, threats, or discrimination.