

SS.7.C.2.2

Evaluate the obligations citizens have to obey laws, pay taxes, defend the nation, and serve on juries.

Also Assesses

SS.7.C.2.3 - Experience the responsibilities of citizens at the local, state, or federal levels

SS.7.C.2.14 - Conduct a service project to further the public good

SS.7.C.2.2 Benchmark Clarification 1: Students will distinguish between an obligation or duty and a responsibility as it relates to citizenship.

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 there are both **obligations** and **responsibilities** that 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:

Obligations of Citizens <i>An action that is required by law</i>	Responsibilities of Citizens <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 selective service	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