



*Civics is all around us. There is a lot to know about the government and how “We the People” interact with the government and each other. Let’s help each other expand our civic literacy.*

*The “common good” is the beliefs or actions that benefit the community as a whole rather than individual interests. The “common good” is also known as the “public good”. In our government system, it’s both the government and the citizens that are responsible for protecting our rights and promoting the common good to benefit the community.*

In the words of Founding Father John Adams, “Government is instituted for the common good; for the protection, safety, prosperity and happiness of the people...”



To promote the common good and slow the spread of the COVID-19/Novel Coronavirus, the federal government has issued Coronavirus Guidelines for America and created a website with information, [coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus). These guidelines outline specific ways individuals can support the common good. The federal government advises everyone to listen to the direction of their state and local authorities, stay home, practice good hygiene, and avoid social gatherings among other things. By abiding by these guidelines, individuals fulfill their obligations and help promote the common good. States and municipal governments have also provided guidance for resident that are unique to the needs of that area.

✓ **To Do:** Explore the website of your local government. Are there guidelines in place that exceed those put forward by the federal government and your state government?

✓ **To Think:** Reflect on the common good and complete this sentence:  
When I think about promoting the common good, I feel \_\_\_\_\_  
because \_\_\_\_\_.

**Learn MORE** about the concept of the common good. Free registration may be required.

- [Citizen Obligations and Responsibilities](#), From Civics360
- [Responsibility Launcher](#), from iCivics

