

## Obligations and Responsibilities of Citizens -Sample Answers

Vocabulary Term	Definition
<b>Obligation</b>	a requirement, something a person or government has to do
<b>Responsibility</b>	something a person should do
<b>Common Good</b>	beliefs or actions that are seen as a benefit to the community rather than individual interests, also known as the public good

### Obligations of Citizens

What is it?	Summarize this obligation using a complete sentence	How do you know it is an obligation?	How does this obligation relate to the common good?	What are the consequences if people do not fulfill this obligation?	What is the impact of this act on society, government and/or political process?
Obeying Laws	There are federal, state, and local laws and everyone has to follow them.	Everyone has to follow them. There are consequences if you don't.	Obeying laws keeps order so that people are safe.	Things would be unsafe or chaotic.	Obeying laws is part of everyday life. You don't have to go out of your way to obey laws, but it is important to obey laws in order to have a safe community.
Paying Taxes	There are federal, state, and local taxes and everyone pays them. Taxes pay for different services depending on the type of tax.	Taxes are required; There are penalties for not filing your taxes each year.	Taxes pay for large programs that benefit everyone.	If people don't pay taxes, we will not have enough money to pay for certain programs and services.	Paying taxes is part of everyday life. You automatically pay taxes when you are shopping. Taxes impact government services that are in our community.
Jury Duty	The right to a trial by jury is a guarantee for people and it is other people's obligation to serve as part of the jury.	It is a constitutional right for people to have a jury by trial, you must report if you are called for jury duty.	By participating in jury duty you are protecting the constitutional right to be tried by one's peers.	You can be fined or jailed if you do not show up for jury duty. Also, if people don't show up there are less people participating in the jury process.	Jury Duty can take at least 1 day or longer depending on if you are picked for a jury. Jury duty has a big impact on the person on trial.
Defending the Nation	All males between the ages of 18-25 have to register for selective service.	All males have to do it, it isn't a choice.	Defending our nation benefits the entire country and provides protection.	If males don't register, we might not have enough troops in a crisis and won't be able to protect our country.	Defending the nation is an active way for someone to participate in the wellbeing of our entire country and govt and keep us safe.

## Responsibilities of Citizens

What is it?	Summarize this responsibility using a complete sentence	How do you know it is a responsibility?	How does this responsibility relate to the common good?	What are the consequences if people do not fulfill this responsibility?	What is the impact of this act on society, government and/or political process?
Voting	Voting is an opportunity to have your voice heard and express your point of view on issues by voting for the candidate you agree with.	You don't have to vote, you can choose to vote.	Voting relates to the common good because you are sharing your opinion by voting. Opinions need to be shared in order to make sure decisions are made that represent how people feel.	If people don't vote, the government will only represent those people who do vote.	In order to vote you have to take the steps to register and then you have to show up on election days. Voting impacts who serves in government and who makes decisions for our society.
Attending Civic Meetings	When you attend a civic meeting you can become an informed citizen.	You don't have to attend these meetings, but you will become a better informed citizen if you do attend.	Similar to voting, by attending civic meetings you will be able to have your voice heard.	If people don't attend these meetings, it is more difficult to become involved in what is happening in your government.	To attend civic meetings you have to make an effort to find out when these meetings occur and also make the effort to attend. Civic meetings are where decisions are made that impact govt. and society.
Petitioning Government	Petitioning the government is a freedom listed in the First Amendment	This is a freedom but not an obligation.	The ability to petition allows you to voice your opinion to the government if you agree or disagree with issues that the government is dealing with.	If people choose not to exercise this freedom, the government will assume that they are always doing the right thing.	In order to petition the government you have to be active in a few different ways. You have to be informed about issues. Petitions can impact decisions made by the government.
Running for Office	Running for office provides citizens an opportunity to become involved in the government and represent their community.	Running for office is a choice and not an obligation.	By running for office you are making your voice heard and representing your community. You are also stating that you will be a leader in your government.	By running for office you are stating that you are willing to be a leader. If people don't run for office, we won't have enough leadership.	Running for office requires a lot of active participation. You have to register to run for office and then you have to campaign. If you win, you will be actively involved and have an impact because it is your job.
Community Service	Community service provides an opportunity for people to see problems in their community and help fix them.	Community service helps everyone involved, but is not required.	Community services helps the common good. It benefits everyone when a citizen sees a need in their community and takes the extra steps to find a solution.	The consequences of not participating in community service is that problems can get overlooked and people who need help will not get it.	Community service is a very active way to participate in your community. You have to put a lot of effort in to see how you can help service your community, but you can have a positive impact on society.

