



Good Citizenship Blog Excerpts Handout

For use in Year 3, Lesson 1.2: What is Citizenship?

Excerpt 1: Defining Good Citizenship

"Good citizens are individuals who strive to do the right thing, not principally for their own self-interest but for their broader communities and for society (ethics); know the rules, regulations, and norms of their particular communities and contexts, as well as conditions when it is proper or even necessary to defy them (excellence); and take an interest and find meaning in working for the betterment of community and society (engagement)."

Source: [Good Citizenship: A Series – Part 1](#)

Excerpt 2: Neighborly Morality

"We often describe neighborly morality as the Golden Rule: treating others in the way that you yourself would like to be treated. We notice 'good people' in the grocery store (offering to help others carry packages), in our neighborhoods (shoveling walks for elderly neighbors), or on the road (waving others into lines of waiting traffic). Good people think about the consequences of their actions upon others—especially those whom they encounter in daily life."

Source: [Good Citizenship: A Series – Part 2](#)

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Excerpt 3: Personal Reflection on Citizenship

"Being a good citizen—one who is actively civically engaged—does not mean that you necessarily show up to vote every four years, nor does it mean that you have to be the best volunteer in your community. Being civically engaged, or a good citizen, can occur in all sorts of ways. Indeed, it can be all-encompassing; it is something you can be doing, or thinking about, learning about, or working towards, at any time of your day, in any location."

Source: [*Good Citizenship: A Series – Part 4*](#)

Excerpt 4: Global Citizenship

"At the heart of global citizenship is a conviction that humans are capable of learning how to think and can as well choose to act mindfully in relation to the worldwide community. Global citizenship acknowledges interconnectedness, calls for intercultural sensitivities that bridge differences, and ultimately requires actions that are ethically-oriented."

Source: [*Good Citizenship: A Series – Part 5*](#)

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Instructions for Use:

Each group should receive 1 excerpt. As you read, discuss the provided questions:

- How does the concept of responsibility relate to being a good citizen?
- Can you identify examples from the excerpt where individuals balance multiple responsibilities?
- Do you think being a responsible citizen means putting others' needs ahead of your own? Why or why not?
- How do personal responsibilities influence one's engagement in the broader community or society?