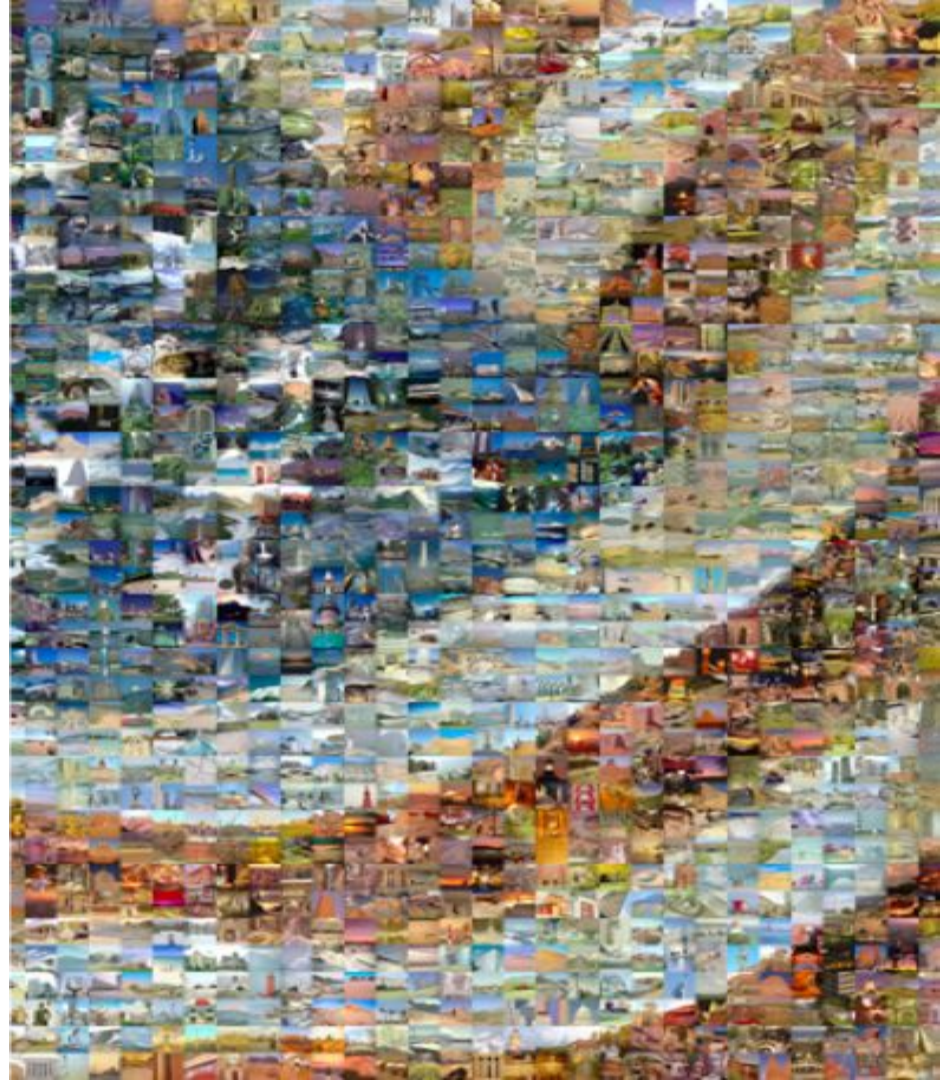


Citizenship & Civic Values



What is a citizen?

A citizen is a participatory member of a political community with certain **rights** and privileges. In return, there are **responsibilities** and **duties** that must be fulfilled.



Who can be an American citizen?

All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof are citizens of the United States and of the State where in they reside...

-14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (1868)

Who can be an American citizen?

1. Born in United States (soil)
2. Born to at least one parent who is a U.S. citizen (blood)
3. Complete the naturalization process

Alien: citizens of one country who live in a foreign country with permission to do so by the government (Visa or Green Card)

Can citizenship be lost? Yes!

- Voluntarily given up (expatriation)
- Become a citizen of a foreign country unless special exception
 - Ex. Born on a U.S. military base in Germany
- Serving in foreign army or holding office in foreign government
 - Ex. General Robert E. Lee
- Convicted of a major federal crime, such as treason

Treason

Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open Court. The Congress shall have power to declare the punishment of treason.

-Article III of the U.S. Constitution

requirements for naturalization call for the immigrant to:



Naturalization Oath (1929, 1950)

*"I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely **renounce** and **abjure** all **allegiance** and **fidelity** to any foreign prince, **potentate**, state or **sovereignty**, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, **foreign** and **domestic**; that I will bear true faith and **allegiance** to the same; that I will **bear arms** on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform **noncombatant** service in the armed forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under **civilian** direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of **evasion**; so help me God."*

U.S. Citizenship Timeline

- 1776 You must be a white male *and* own property to **vote**!
- 1791 All white males may vote even if they don't own property!
- 1795 "Free white persons" will become **citizens** after living in the U.S. for five years.
- 1848 80,000 Mexican residents of the Southwest are granted **citizenship** after the Mexican-American war.
- 1857 In *Dred Scott v. Sandford* the U.S. Supreme Court rules that African Americans who were brought into this country as slaves could never be citizens.
- 1868 The 14th **Amendment** overrules *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, giving citizenship to African Americans.
- 1870 Laws changed to say that "white persons and persons of African descent" can be citizens; The 15th **Amendment** gives African Americans the right to vote!
- 1913 Several states enact Alien Land Laws prohibiting non-citizens from owning property.
- 1920 The 19th **Amendment** allows women to vote!
- 1924 All **Native Americans** are granted citizenship.
- 1940's All laws banning **Asians** from becoming citizens are overturned.
- 1947 Native Americans are given the right to vote!
- 1952 U.S. Congress passes a law that citizenship cannot be denied because of **race** or **gender**
- 1965 The **Voting Rights Act** gets rid of all barriers to voting, such as taxes and literacy tests
- 1971 The voting age is lowered from 21 to 18 by the 26th **Amendment**!



Personal Values & Civic Values

- Each of us hold our own set of **personal values**
 - We prioritize certain positive values over others
 - Result of “political socialization”
- At the same time we collectively hold a set of **civic values**
 - Principles we hold important to the success our community and our society as a whole
 - Most support values of *liberty, equality, democracy, civic duty, personal responsibility*

Included within Civic Values...

- **Civic Rights**
 - Things we CAN do (?)
- **Civic Responsibilities**
 - Things we SHOULD do (?)
- **Civic Duties**
 - Things we MUST do--punishable by law (?)