

WHAT DOES CITIZENSHIP MEAN TO YOU?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CQycko6jOA>

- **Citizenship** means (to me) being an equal person in society and being able to **have a say** about the things that matter to you.
- It means to me being free.
- Volunteering, and community activism is a part of that like, you know, making a difference in somebody that might have been where you used to be at.
- (Italiano) The thing that ties you to the nation, the nation where you were born, where you live, where maybe you want to raise a family.
- Absolute 100% equality, and that's something we probably will never ever have.
- Living with other people of different **backgrounds**, of different origins, of different races and stuff, and all coming together for the common good.
- To be a working man, provide for your family.
- Brotherhood, family.
- Just having a sense of belonging to something greater than yourself.
- Being an integral part of a group process, each individual is treated equally.
- (Spanish) I think that to be a citizen is simply the place where you live.
- To give and take to the community, it's not just like, yourself, you're part of the community.
- Well that you can cycle to work.
- Collective action where people work together, you know, **to improve** the situation, maybe culturally, educationally, economically, for all of us, in a way that includes all people, **regardless** of race, class, gender.
- It means taking care of your neighbor, taking care of yourself.
- I have a voice, I have a chance to make a difference in someone's life.
- **Willing** participation in an environment where you live.
- Participating in community events, and telling my life story and listening to other people's life stories, and also to share my musical talent such as the violin and sometimes singing in church.
- How you develop common attributes and common goals with the people around you.
- I'm an immigrant, citizenship is a great thing, that's a lot of opportunities, right? You got it, you can do anything you want, you can go to school.
- What it means to be a citizen is to be responsible for our community (community, community, community)
- Connecting with your community, **giving back** to your community.
- Communicating together, fellowshiping together.
- You feel like you're **equal with** other people.
- I should have access to education, I should have access to housing, I shouldn't have to be on **welfare**, to be the working poor, we should be able to have everything that the rich people have, and not to be put on this 'poverty class'.
- I'm proud to be in 'America' I guess, and I hope the foreigners become US citizens in our country.
- It's something earned, I don't believe even people born in this country should be just given citizenship, it's something you should serve for, serve your country.
- That I am part of my country and that I represent some of the views of my country, I have certain rights and freedoms.
- We don't live in isolation, we're surrounded by other people, so we should be concerned with the welfare of everybody else.
- **A bunch of** different people being able to get along, and accept people for who they are.

VOCABULARY:

Citizenship:

to improve

be equal with

Have a say:

regardless

welfare

Backgrounds:

Willing

A bunch of

Now you...

Which of these opinions about citizenship meaning fit you the most? Which one is more like yours? why?



Citizenship is everything that has to do with **being a citizen**, or full member, of a country. Citizens have **rights** that are given by the country's government. For example, citizens have the right to be protected by a country's laws. In return, citizens have **duties** that they owe to the country. One of the most important duties is being loyal to the country.

Citizenship is different than **nationality**. A person's nationality tells which country that person (called a national) is from. But nationals from a certain country are not always citizens of that country. They may have gained citizenship in another country. Or they may have lost their citizenship. People who live in a country but are not citizens or nationals of that country are called foreigners or **aliens**.

Every country has its own rules about who is a citizen and how to become one. Many countries have set up **four basic ways to become a citizen**. First, anyone who is **born** in the country is a citizen of that country. Second, anyone whose **mother or father is a citizen** of the country is also a citizen. Third, anyone who **is married** to a citizen becomes a citizen. Fourth, a person who goes through a process called **naturalization** becomes a citizen.

Citizens have certain rights. Some countries give their citizens more or different rights than other countries. Citizens usually have **the right to vote**. They usually have **the right to be elected** to government jobs as well. Other rights of citizens may include the right to follow any religion and the right to speak freely.

Citizens also have duties, or responsibilities. **Voting is a responsibility** as well as a right. Citizens must vote to make sure that their government works for the good of its citizens. Citizens also may have the duty to **serve on a jury during a trial** in court. Some countries make serving in the military a duty of all citizens.

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