HANDBOOK ON CITIZENSHIP

CHAPTER 6 What Every Citizen

Should Know

Missouri's high school students must take a semester civics class (1/2 credit). Every Missouri student in a public high school also must take an American government test and an American history test. Sometime between 7th grade and graduation, every student must pass both a Missouri and U.S. Constitution test in order to graduate. To become a naturalized U.S. citizen, an individual must pass a citizenship test.

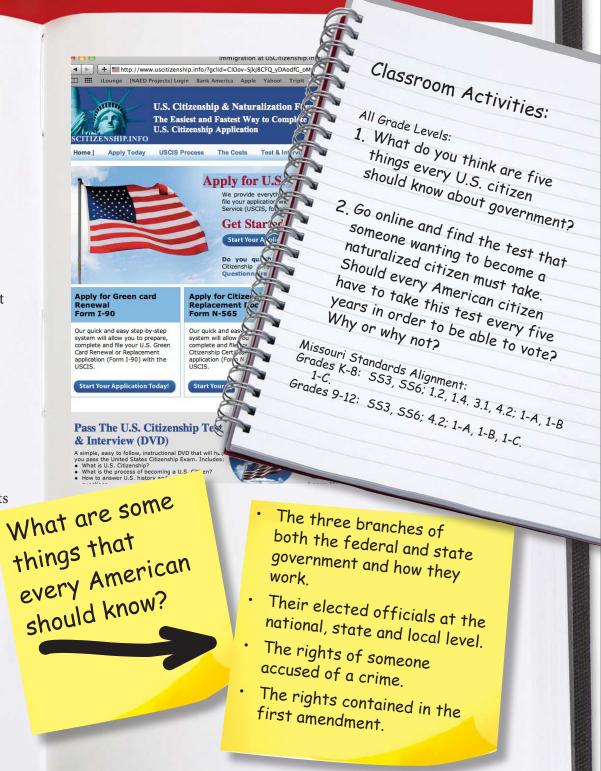
That is the extent to which knowledge of our government is measured in Missouri. There are no tests to determine if someone knows enough about government to vote or run for office. But surely there are some basic things every American should know about government, and perhaps it is time we begin a national dialogue about this matter.

Being an American citizen is a great privilege. We have more rights than most other nations, and yet our voting percentage is low.

Stitoday.com LOCALS BECOME U.S. CITIZENS About 100 area residents became United States citizens during a naturalization ceremony held at Parkway South High School in Manchester. STLtoday.com/multimedia



Our history demonstrates that a responsible and knowledgeable citizenry is crucial to maintaining the Founders' hope that we keep the system of limited government they so carefully created.



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