

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.

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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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



U.S. Citizenship & Naturalization Form I-90
The Easiest and Fastest Way to Complete U.S. Citizenship Application

Apply for U.S. Citizenship

Apply for Green Card Renewal Form I-90

Apply for Citizenship Replacement Form N-565

Pass The U.S. Citizenship Test & Interview (DVD)

Classroom Activities:

All Grade Levels:

1. What do you think are five things every U.S. citizen should know about government?
2. Go online and find the test that someone wanting to become a naturalized citizen must take. Should every American citizen have to take this test every five years in order to be able to vote? Why or why not?

Missouri Standards Alignment:
Grades K-8: SS3, SS6; 1.2, 1.4, 3.1, 4.2; 1-A, 1-B
1-C.
Grades 9-12: SS3, SS6; 4.2; 1-A, 1-B, 1-C.

What are some things that every American should know?



- The three branches of both the federal and state government and how they work.
- Their elected officials at the national, state and local level.
- The rights of someone accused of a crime.
- The rights contained in the first amendment.