HANDBOOK ON CITIZENSHIP

CHAPTER 3

Another Side of Citizenship: Privileges and Responsibilities

Being a United States citizen comes not only with certain rights, but also with certain privileges and many responsibilities. What is the difference between a right and a privilege?

A United States citizen has a right to vote and the government must have a really good reason for taking that right away. A privilege is something that the government allows you to have and can make rules about it.

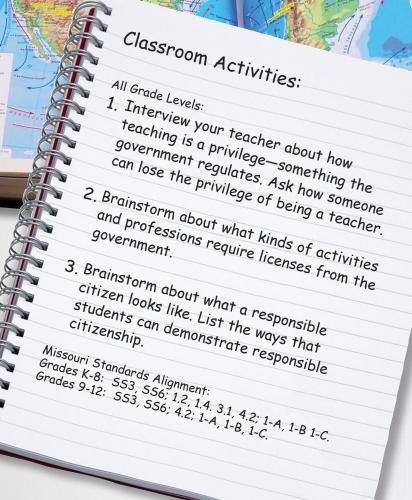
One example of a privilege is driving. Before you can drive, you must have a driver's license. Before you can get a license, you must pass both a written and driving test. If you drive while drunk or on drugs, the government can take away your license.

A popular saying is "Freedom is not free." How do we make sure we keep our rights and our privileges? We must be responsible citizens. The foremost civic responsibility is voting. But there are other ways to be civically responsible: respecting the rights of others, serving in the military, respecting the environment and volunteering.



Some civic responsibilities:

- Voting. • Obeying the law.
- Paying taxes.
- Serving on a jury



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