

Name _____

What Makes You a Good Citizen?

When you get to school in the morning, do you push getting off the bus? On the playground, do you boss others around and grab things? A good citizen always respects other people's rights and property. That means asking if you may borrow a pencil or a crayon. It means following the rules. It means treating people the way you would like them to treat you.

Here are some important words to know:

Self-discipline	Being able to control your impulses and urges.
Self-reliance	Being able to do things by yourself.
Trustworthiness	Making people feel that they can depend on you to do a good job.
Citizen	Someone who, by birth or by choice, is a member of a nation.

Yelling out answers without raising a hand or pushing someone out of the lunch line are signs that a child does not have self-discipline. Having a tantrum is another sign of not having self-discipline. A good citizen can control themselves even when they are bursting to share the right answer or want get the first helping of macaroni and cheese at lunch.

People who are self-reliant get things done without having to be reminded. Doing homework or taking care of your pets without being nagged makes you a good citizen. Always telling the truth and being trustworthy – being the kind of person others feel they can turn to when they need help – will make you a good citizen and a good friend.

People contribute to their community by practicing the responsibilities of good citizens.

Do you treat everyone with respect? Are you careful with other people's things? Do you always tell the truth? Are you a good friend? Do you pitch in when someone needs a little help? Good for you! You are a good citizen.

What if everyone drove too fast or ignored STOP signs? People would get hurt. What if people took things that did not belong to them? A good citizen obeys the laws of a community, the school, and the classroom.

Suppose a firefighter takes a fire truck to a mechanic and the mechanic does a bad job fixing it. What will happen the next time a fire alarm sounds? What if the truck will not start? It is always important to do you best. A good citizen is trustworthy.

Self-discipline and self-reliance are also important. People with self-discipline control their tempers when things do not go their way. They do not have tantrums or sulk. Folks who are self-reliant get things, such as chores, done without being nagged. A good citizen is also active in school and their community, ready to help if something needs to be done.

Our country has grown strong because we have always tried to share, be truthful, get things done for ourselves, and lend a helping hand to those who need it most.