



Maggie’s Civics Corner

Lesson 23 – Our Community & Citizenship

Maggie Says...

A citizen is someone who is legally recognized as a member of a country. In the United States, being a citizen grants you certain rights and responsibilities. For example, in the United States, every citizen has the right to freedom of expression—you can speak openly about your religion, politics, and personal opinions. At the same time, every U.S. citizen has the responsibility to respect the rights, beliefs, and opinions of other people. As a pup, I feel like a citizen in my community. I want to do whatever I can to help the people (and pups) I see every day. But even if I am not a citizen, that’s okay! I still feel proud and protected by the people around me. Everyone who lives in my community, and the United States, should get a chance to contribute to their community. Let’s do it together!

Today’s lesson asks us to think about citizenship and our communities. Being a citizen of the U.S. is a privilege—it is a gift. Not everyone gets to experience that gift. Even if someone is not a citizen, she or he still belongs and should be able to enjoy the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness.

Sticky Situation: In the United States, citizens have rights but they also have responsibilities. Here is a list of a few of the rights and responsibilities U.S. citizens have:

Rights	Responsibilities
Freedom to express yourself.	Support and defend the Constitution.
Freedom to worship as you wish.	Stay informed of the issues affecting your community.
Right to vote in elections for public officials.	Participate in the democratic process.
Right to run for elected office.	Respect and obey federal, state, and local laws.
Freedom to pursue “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”	Respect the rights, beliefs, and opinions of others.
	Participate in your local community.

Activity: Think of yourself as a citizen of your home. What rights and responsibilities do you have as a citizen of your home? Fill in the chart below (Use the Civic Resource below for guidance):

Rights	Responsibilities
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Civic Resources: Watch this video on the difference between rights and responsibilities.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TyP09S0UEzA>