

# A Civics360 Reader



*A One Stop Shop for Civics Success*

***STUDENT READINGS FOR  
CIVICS LEARNING***



UCF

**Lou Frey  
Institute**

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA



**FLORIDA JOINT CENTER  
FOR CITIZENSHIP**

# A Civics360 Reader

*A One Stop Shop for Civics Success*

STUDENT READINGS FOR CIVICS LEARNING

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## **Citizen You!**

### **Review information on:**

SS.7.C.2.1 Defining Citizenship

SS.7.C.2.2, 2.3, & 2.14 Citizen Obligations and Responsibilities

SS.7.C.1.9 Rule of Law

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**Citizen You: SS.7.C.2.1  
Defining Citizenship  
VIDEO SCRIPT**



1. According to the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, a citizen is defined simply as:
2. “All persons born or naturalized in the United States.” That is a pretty inclusive definition. The amendment also states, “and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside.”
3. The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution defines citizenship, but that is not all we need to know about being a citizen in the United States.
  4. In this video, we will
    - ✓ Define citizenship as stated in the Fourteenth Amendment
    - ✓ describe the process of becoming a naturalized citizen
    - ✓ evaluate the impact of the naturalization process on society, government or the political process
  5. Let’s look again at the Fourteen Amendment. Did you know that this amendment was not added until 1868? Over 80 years after the U.S. Constitution was written.
  6. Even though there was no formal definition of the term citizen until the Fourteenth Amendment was ratified in 1868, the term was mentioned in the Constitution several times.
  7. The Fourteenth Amendment defined the citizenship qualifications as
    - Anyone who is born in the United States or
    - Anyone who is an immigrant and has gone through the naturalization process. An immigrant is a person who comes to a country to live there permanently.
  8. First let’s look at how a person gains citizenship by birth. There are two ways: law of blood and law of soil



9. The law of blood means that a person's citizenship at birth is the same as that of his or her biological mother or father.
10. The law of soil says that a person's citizenship is determined by the country where he or she was born.
11. By being a citizen through birth, according to the Fourteenth Amendment, natural rights (remember life, liberty and property) are guaranteed and cannot be taken away without due process.
12. Let's Check In: Which amendment defines citizenship? Can you explain the concepts of law of blood and law of soil?
13. ANSWER TO QUESTIONS
14. Wait, didn't the Fourteenth Amendment also mention that immigrants can become citizens through a process called naturalization? Let's look at the qualifications required for that process.
15. To apply for citizenship, an immigrant must:
- ✓ Be at least 18 years old
  - ✓ Have been a resident (someone who lives in a place for a minimum period of time) of the United States for five years without leaving for more than 30 months combined and for no more than 12 uninterrupted months throughout a 5 year period
  - ✓ File a petition for naturalization; this is similar to filling out an application stating a person wants to become a citizen
- 16.
- ✓ Take a test that shows they can read, write and speak English well enough to demonstrate that they know American History and the U.S. Constitution.
  - ✓ Be able to prove that they are of good moral character which means they can prove they are not a criminal.
- 17.
- ✓ Must have two U.S. citizens confirm that the applicant is of good moral character and finally
  - ✓ Once all of the conditions have been met the applicant takes the "Oath of Allegiance." This means that people wanting to become a citizen must pledge their loyalty to the United States.
18. Let's Check in: Which is a requirement for a person to become a naturalized U.S. citizen?
- A. passing a U.S. history and government exam
  - B. working in the U.S. for at least five years
  - C. being born to American parents
  - D. serving in the U.S. military

19. CORRECT ANSWER

Excellent!

20. Now, let's look at the impact the naturalization process has on society, our government and the political process.
21. According to the *United States Citizenship and Immigration Services*, each year around 680,000 become naturalized citizens. That is a large number!
22. Over the years immigration has been a topic of debate with disagreements over questions such as:
- ✓ Who should be granted citizenship?
  - ✓ How difficult should the process to gain citizenship by naturalization?
  - ✓ How long should immigrants be allowed to live in the U.S. without applying for citizenship?
  - ✓ Should we limit immigration? How? To who?
23. Presidential candidates discuss these questions in their party platforms and their views often influence how voters feel about the naturalization process and who becomes a citizen. Why might this be?
24. As more immigrants naturalize and become involved in the political process, they have a strong influence.
25. Their influence on our government happens by voting, participating in lawmaking, running for political office and being selected as public officials. This gives them an equal voice with natural born citizens!
26. Participating in the political process has become a lot easier for many naturalized citizens since the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
27. This requires ballots to be printed in all of the languages in a county where at least 5% of the citizens living in that county speak that language.
28. As a result, more naturalized citizens vote now than they did before the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Politicians are also more likely to pay attention to issues in immigrant communities with large numbers of naturalized citizens that can vote.
29. LET'S CHECK IN: What are some ways the naturalization process has impacted our country?
30. ANSWER TO QUESTION
31. Pretty amazing isn't it? The Fourteenth Amendment defines citizenship and includes those who were immigrants that went through the naturalization process. Also, don't forget that means all of the people included in the citizenship category are guaranteed their natural rights of life, liberty and property.
32. That sort of sums up the American promise and the American dream. Now we know who the We in We the people really are. Good job!

33. Let's recap — Try to answer for yourself the following questions:
34. Can you define citizenship as stated in the Fourteenth Amendment?
35. ANSWER TO QUESTION
36. Can you describe the process of becoming a naturalized citizen?
37. ANSWER TO QUESTION
38. Can you describe the impact of the naturalization process?
- ANSWER TO QUESTION

**SS.7.C.2.1**

Define the term "citizen," and identify legal means of becoming a U.S. citizen.

**SS.7.C.2.1 Benchmark Clarification 1:** Students will define citizenship as stated in the Fourteenth Amendment.

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. – U.S. Constitution, Amendment XIV, Section 1 (1868)

The U.S. Constitution as **ratified** in 1789 did not include a definition of U.S. **citizenship**, but the Constitution mentioned citizenship several times. A formal definition of U.S. citizenship was added to the Constitution when the **14<sup>th</sup> Amendment** was ratified in 1868.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, as shown above, defines citizenship as belonging to 1) anyone who is born in the United States, or 2) anyone who is an **immigrant** who has gone through the **naturalization** process.

There are two methods for someone to become a U.S. citizen by birth. If a person is born in the United States, in one of its territories, or at a U.S. embassy, that person is a citizen through the **law of soil**. This method of becoming a citizen does not require the person's mother or father to be a U.S. citizen. The other way to become a citizen by birth is for one of the person's birth parents to be a U.S. citizen. This means that U.S. citizenship is passed to the child from the natural mother or father. This method of gaining citizenship is called the **law of blood**.

Citizens, as explained in the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, are guaranteed their **natural rights** to life, liberty, and property, which cannot be taken away without **due process**.

In the United States there are also people who are considered **aliens**. Aliens are persons living in the U.S. who are not citizens. Aliens can be in the U.S. for temporary purposes (a job or visiting for a certain period of time) or as a legal permanent resident (someone who is permanently living in the U.S. legally but not a citizen).

**14<sup>th</sup> Amendment** - an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that defines citizenship, grants citizenship to former slaves, and defines voters as males at least 21 years of age

**alien** - any person not a citizen or national of a country

**citizenship** - being a legal member of a state and/or country

**due process** - the right of people accused of crimes to have laws that treat them fairly, so that they cannot lose their life or freedom without having their legal rights protected

**immigrant** - a person who comes to a country to live there permanently

**law of blood** - a person's citizenship at birth is the same as that of his or her biological mother or father

**law of soil** - a person's citizenship at birth is determined by the country where he or she was born

**naturalization** - the process by which an immigrant becomes a citizen

**natural rights** - the belief that individuals are born with basic rights that cannot be taken away by governments

**ratify** - confirm by expressing consent; formally approve

**SS.7.C.2.1**

Define the term "citizen," and identify legal means of becoming a U.S. citizen.

**SS.7.C.2.1 Benchmark Clarification 2:** Students will describe the process of becoming a naturalized citizen.

If an **immigrant** wants to become a U.S. **citizen**, the immigrant must meet a set of conditions. The table below lists the basic conditions required for **naturalization**.

Immigrants must:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be at least 18 years old.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have been a <b>resident</b> of the United States for five years, without leaving for more than 30 months combined and for no more than 12 uninterrupted months throughout the five-year period.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• file for a petition for naturalization.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• take a test to show that they can read, write, and speak English, and demonstrate knowledge of American history and the U.S. Constitution.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be able to prove that they are of <b>good moral character</b>.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have two U.S. citizens confirm that the applicant will be of good moral character.</li> </ul>

Once all of the conditions above have been met, the applicant must take the "Oath of Allegiance." The oath is the last step in the naturalization process and requires people seeking citizenship to pledge their loyalty to the United States.

**citizen** - a legal member of a state and/or country

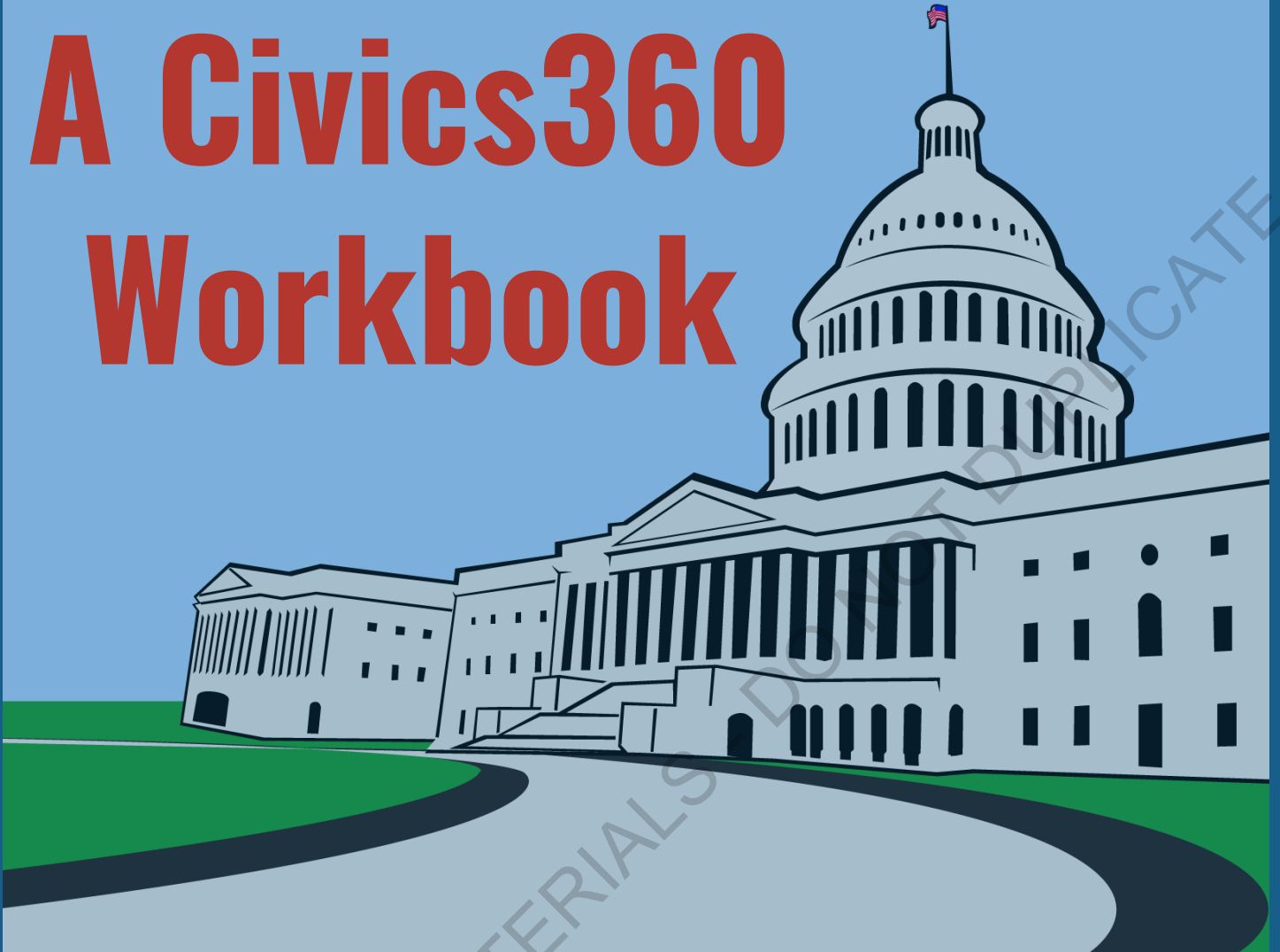
**good moral character** - not participating in certain crimes or behavior

**immigrant** - a person who comes to a country to live there permanently

**naturalization** - the process by which an immigrant becomes a citizen

**resident** - someone who lives in a place for a minimum period of time

# A Civics360 Workbook



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## **Citizen You!**

### **Review information on:**

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SS.7.C.2.2, 2.3, & 2.14 Citizen Obligations and Responsibilities

SS.7.C.1.9 Rule of Law

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**Citizen You: SS.7.C.2.1  
Defining Citizenship  
VIDEO VIEWING GUIDE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



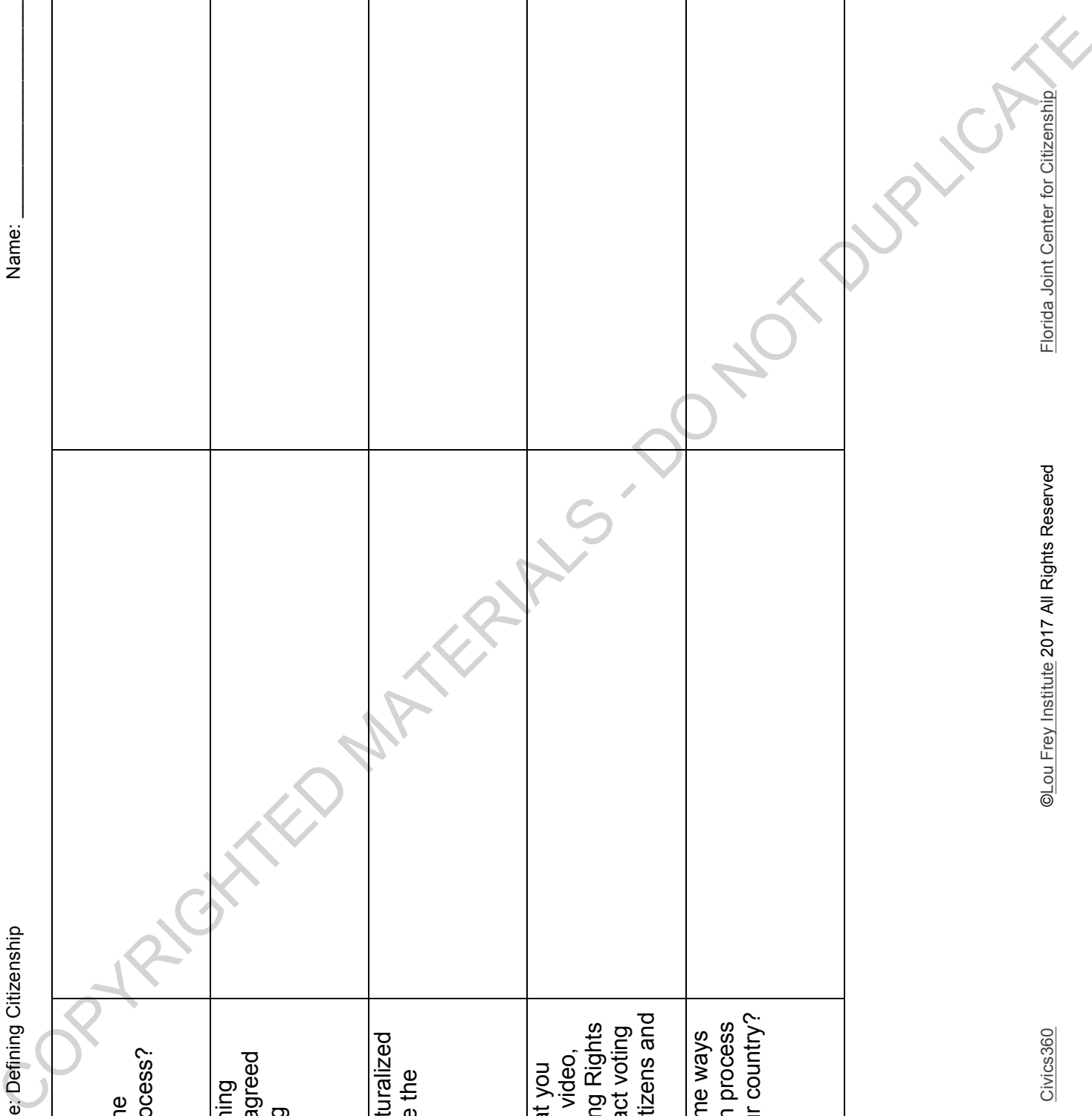
Question	List Specific Evidence from the Video	Complete Sentence
1. Define the term 'citizen'.		
2. Which amendment defines citizenship?		
3. Who is an immigrant?		
4. What is the Law of Blood?		
5. What is the Law of Soil?		

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Video Viewing Guide: Defining Citizenship

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>6.</b> What are the qualifications for participating in the naturalization process?</p>			
<p><b>7.</b> What is one thing people have disagreed about concerning immigration?</p>			
<p><b>8.</b> How could naturalized citizens influence the government?</p>			
<p><b>9.</b> Based on what you learned from the video, how did the Voting Rights Act of 1965 impact voting by naturalized citizens and why?</p>			
<p><b>10.</b> What are some ways the naturalization process has impacted our country?</p>			





**Citizen You: SS.7.C.2.1  
Defining Citizenship  
READING GUIDE #1**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Reading: Citizenship Defined in the Fourteenth Amendment**

**Benchmark Clarification 1:** Students will define citizenship as stated in the Fourteenth Amendment.

Reading Task	Response
What ideas are presented in the reading?	
What is the central idea of the reading?	
Select two words or phrases that support the central idea.	
How might this reading connect to your own experience or something you have seen, read, or learned before?	
Define citizenship as stated in the Fourteenth Amendment.	According to the Fourteenth Amendment, 'citizenship' means:



*Citizen You: SS.7.C.2.1*  
**Defining Citizenship**  
**READING GUIDE #2**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Reading: The Naturalization Process**

**Benchmark Clarification 2:** Students will describe the process of becoming a naturalized citizen.

Reading Task	Response
What ideas are presented in the reading?	
What is the central idea of the reading?	
Select two words or phrases that support the central idea.	
How might this reading connect to your own experience or something you have seen, read, or learned before?	
Describe the process of becoming a naturalized citizen.	To become a naturalized citizen, you must:





**Citizen You: SS.7.C.2.1  
Defining Citizenship  
READING GUIDE #3**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Reading: The Impact of the Naturalization Process**

**Benchmark Clarification 3:** Students will evaluate the impact of the naturalization process on society, government, or the political process.

Reading Task	Response
What ideas are presented in the reading?	
What is the central idea of the reading?	
Select two words or phrases that support the central idea.	
How might this reading connect to your own experience or something you have seen, read, or learned before?	
How does the naturalization process impact society, government, or the political process?	The naturalization process impacts society, government, or the political process through:



Citizen You: SS.7.C.2.1  
**Defining Citizenship**  
**VOCABULARY PRACTICE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Defining Citizenship**

Write about your understanding of **citizenship** by explaining the connections between and among each of the terms in the concept circle.

How do the terms in the concept circle fit together?

