



The **mission** of **Citizenship Counts** is to **educate** today's youth on the tenets of citizenship, encourage them to **appreciate** their rights and responsibilities as Americans and give them the opportunity to **celebrate** citizenship by hosting a naturalization ceremony at their school or by participating in service to their community.

Our FREE middle and high school civic education materials provide educators with a comprehensive curriculum and additional activities that explore the concepts of citizenship and promote critical thinking about immigration and the naturalization process. As circumstances permit, the curriculum culminates in a powerful school-based naturalization ceremony conducted by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and/or the U.S. federal courts. Our curriculum also offers an opportunity for students to participate in a service-learning project.

The **Citizenship Counts** program consists of:

#### Interactive Multi-Disciplinary Lesson Plans

1. What is an "Ideal" Citizen?
2. The Responsibilities of Citizenship
3. Constitutional Rights
4. The Naturalization Process
5. Push-Pull Factors
6. Country Studies
7. History of Immigration
8. Preparing to Take the Naturalization Test

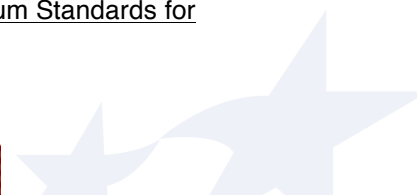
#### Additional Resources

- Guide for Service-Learning Projects
- Guide for Planning a Naturalization Ceremony (at your school or community venue)
- Supplemental Lessons and Activities
- Maps and Graphs
- Stats and Facts about Immigration

#### Options for Two Culminating Activities

1. Students can participate in a service-learning project that impacts their school and/or immediate community.
2. Students can be involved in an authentic naturalization ceremony conducted by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or the U.S. federal courts.
  - There are multiple ways for students to be involved, including but not limited to: performing the *National Anthem*, presenting/posting the colors, creating artwork to be displayed at the ceremony or in a commemorative program, interviewing new citizens about their experience and "journey" to becoming U.S. citizens..

The **Citizenship Counts** lessons were developed to have maximum utility in Social Studies classrooms; however, they are cross-curricular in nature and can also be utilized in Language Arts classes. The lessons are correlated to the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, and the lesson objectives are aligned to the National Curriculum Standards for



Social Studies, developed by the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) and the National Standards for Civics and Government, developed by the Center for Civic Education (CCE).

There is absolutely no cost associated with the Citizenship Counts program; the lessons can be downloaded for FREE on our website ([citizenshipcounts.org](http://citizenshipcounts.org)) by clicking the “Education” tab, and then clicking on “Educators” then “Our Core Curriculum.” All that is required is a simple registration so that we can provide you with a username and password for continued access to the page and new resources (lessons plans, activities, and links) as they become available.

### **Testimonials**

“These lessons follow the New York State Learning Standards including those associated with the “Characteristics of a Citizen.” This content is integrated throughout the event [program] and encourages skills in reading, writing, speaking and research...Students had the opportunity to consider their own place in the larger context of the world that further supports their respect for diversity among people and for their culture.”

**Jason S. – Middle School Social Studies Teacher (NY)**

“A unique part of this curriculum was the community action component. After an in depth study, students planned and hosted a naturalization ceremony at our school. This experience really helped students to see the practical application of what they were learning. For example, students used their own ideas of what makes an “ideal citizen” to help guide them in selecting a keynote speaker. They then had to write letters to invite and convince their chosen speaker to accept. This...helped them build their persuasive writing skills. They used math to determine funds needed and held fundraisers to raise money to host the ceremony. They used art for decorations and program covers and technology throughout the process.

The experience really helped foster empathy and understanding of immigrants and the naturalization process. Students were able to see the way the process has changed over time. They were able to meet new citizens and talk with them about their challenges and triumphs in the process of becoming a United States citizen. These first hand experiences have had a deeper impact on my students’ understanding and have given students the desire for continued civic participation. They have asked if they can participate in other community programs. It showed them that adolescents can make a difference and participate in the world around them. “

**Cory S. – High School Social Studies Teacher (FL)**

“Citizenship Counts was the coolest part of our school year. All of our social studies classes worked together to welcome 42 people from 37 different countries when they became American citizens. I will never forget hearing their stories and seeing their tears. I am so lucky to be born in this country where freedom is mine.”

**Jack D. – Middle School Student (ID)**

“The ceremony was an amazing event for both my class and the citizens. Being born in America, I think I might’ve taken for granted all the rights and freedoms I have. But after that, I see that the people have traveled from far away; leaving behind family and friends; and their home country might have been a bad one...I never thought of these things before. On that day, a new piece of knowledge was hammered its way into my head. Social Studies isn’t usually the “happy hour” of my school day, but this--this was interesting. Our teacher, instead of having us look at immigration from the 1800s in textbooks, had us participate in an actual ceremony...”

**Lisa V. – High School Student (TX)**