



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

## WHAT MAKES A GOOD CITIZEN THINKING MAP

By Evelyn Ainsworth

### Activity Description

The goal of this activity is to help students think deeper about how being a good citizen relates to the study of the *Foundations of Democracy* curriculum of *Authority, Responsibility, Justice, and Privacy*. Students will work in small groups to create a Tree Thinking Map to organize ideas (thoughts are written down to branch off from the chosen central topic). Students will work together to create a visual representation of their ideas and then write a summary statement to tie everything together.

### Suggested Grade Level

Elementary, middle school

### Estimated Time to Complete

One class period

### Objective

- Students will work cooperatively to create a tree thinking map that represents their ideas of characteristics that make a good citizen.

### Materials Needed

- Chart paper
- Markers

### Activity Procedures

1. Divide the class into small groups.
2. Small groups will discuss ideas of being a good citizen.
3. Pass out chart paper and markers.
4. Students work together to create a Tree Thinking Map; the title (trunk or main part of the tree) will be “What Makes a Good Citizen” and the branches will be authority, privacy, responsibility, and justice.

5. Students write their ideas on their group's thinking map.
6. Students will work together to write a summary statement for the information they present.
7. Come back together and allow groups to share their ideas and thinking map.

### Examples

