



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

WHAT MAKES A GOOD CITIZEN?

By Daphne Greene

Activity Description

To deepen their understanding of citizenship, students participate in an activity to identify the knowledge, skills, responsibilities, attitudes, and beliefs of a good citizen.

Suggested Grade Level

Upper elementary, middle school, high school

Estimated Time to Complete

One class period, as a supplemental activity to a lesson on citizenship or as an ending activity to finish a lesson on citizenship.

Objectives

Students will

- listen, discuss, write, and present information concerning their ideas about the question, “What makes a good citizen?”
- work cooperatively with group members using correct listening and speaking rules;
- share ideas in writing using correct rules of grammar and writing.

Materials Needed

- Chart paper
- Markers in four different colors
- Thinking question and writing prompt: “What Makes a Good Citizen?”
- Writing paper
- Pencils/pens
- Timer or signaling chimes

Activity Procedures

1. During this activity, students will be divided into small groups. Each group will be assigned to one of five charts that have been posted around the classroom (chart labels: Knowledge, Skills, Responsibilities, Attitudes, and Beliefs). Each small group will discuss and write their ideas concerning the chart heading and the question, “What makes a good citizen?” Each group will have a different-colored marker so specific group ideas can easily be seen.
2. After two minutes (use a timer or signaling chimes), signal students to move in a clockwise manner to the next chart. Small groups will read and place a check beside responses with which

they agree, discuss the ideas written on each chart, then will write their own ideas. After two minutes, small groups will move to the next chart and repeat the process. Continue until all small groups are back to their beginning chart.

3. Next, each group chooses a spokesperson or the teacher can assign someone from the groups to share the information on their assigned chart. Have a class discussion of information presented. This lesson can be a springboard activity for a writing experience following the prompt, "What makes a good citizen?"