



Citizenship Brainstorm

Overview

In this one-day lesson, students brainstorm traits of active citizenship, why they are important, and how they can be acquired.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify examples of good citizenship.
- Formulate and classify citizenship traits of knowledge, skills, and actions.
- State an opinion on the value of active citizenship.

Time Required

One class period

Materials and Preparation

Paper, pens, pencils

Chart paper and markers

Handout Intro A–Citizenship Brainstorm–1 per student

Procedure

A. Brainstorm and Discussion–Traits of Active Citizenship

1. Tell students that today they are going to look at traits of active citizenship, why these traits are important, and how they can be learned.
2. Divide the class into small groups of 3-5 students. Distribute a copy of **Handout A–Citizenship Brainstorm** to each group. Review handout instructions and the “Rules for Brainstorming.” Answer any questions students might have.
3. Write “knowledge,” “skills,” and “actions” on the board. When students complete the brainstorm, have each group choose the most important brainstorm suggestion under each category (knowledge, skills, actions). Tell them to be prepared to:
 - Report their choices to the class and explain why they chose each trait.
 - Ask which category each trait belongs under–citizenship knowledge, skills, or actions. List student answers under the appropriate heading on the board.

B. Debrief

1. Debrief the activity by discussing the following questions:
 - Which citizenship trait (knowledge, skills, or actions) do you think is most important? Why?
 - Which citizenship traits do you already have? Which would you like to acquire?
 - How can you learn these traits of citizenship? (Accept any reasonable response. Answers could include school, home, work, religious institution, social organization, or volunteer organization.)

Citizenship Brainstorm

What does active citizenship really mean? How do you translate the concept of citizenship into practice? Use the “Rules for Brainstorming” below to help you make a list of active citizenship traits.

Rules for Brainstorming

Pose a question to answer or a problem to solve.

Set a time limit on the brainstorm. A deadline helps get more ideas out.

Work as fast as you can!

Build on each other’s ideas.

Encourage outlandish, even silly ideas. A silly idea may lead to a good idea. Have fun!

Do not criticize or judge any idea. That would slow down the brainstorm.

When you run out of ideas, wait and try again.

Write down every idea. One person should record the session so that you can remember the ideas.



Brainstorm as many ideas as you can in response to these three questions:

- What **knowledge** does an effective citizen need?
- What **skills** does an effective citizen need?
- What **actions** does an active citizen need to take?

When you complete the brainstorm, work together to choose the most important brainstorm suggestion under each category (knowledge, skills, actions). Be prepared to report your choices to the class and explain why you think they are important.