



We the People THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

Directed by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Education for Democracy Act approved by the United States Congress.

UNIT VI

WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENS?

Congress has formed a congressional committee. This committee will examine the U.S. Constitution and the purposes of government. The members of your group are expert witnesses who will appear before the committee. You will be asked to testify on the following questions.

1. Many people believe that an informed citizenry is essential if democracy is to work.
 - Should people be required to pass periodic citizenship tests to maintain their citizenship? Why or why not?
 - Would you favor requiring literacy tests, fairly administered, before allowing citizens to vote? Why or why not?
2. Voting is one way a citizen may participate in politics. Many other choices are available.
 - What activities besides voting are available to citizens?
 - Which of these activities, if any, do you think is most useful? Explain your answer.
 - How should a citizen decide in which of these activities to participate?