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*Citizen You: SS.7.CG.2.2*

***Citizen Obligations and Responsibilities***

**READING #5**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***SS.7.CG.2.2 Benchmark Clarification 5****:* Students will identify the consequences or predict the outcome on society if citizens do not fulfill their obligations and responsibilities.

Each **citizen’s obligations** and **responsibilities** have a major impact on society, government, and the political process.

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| **Obligations of a Citizen** | **How does this Obligation Impact Society, Government, or the Political Process?** |
| Obeying the laws | It is important to obey laws to have a safe community. |
| Paying taxes | Taxes make a difference in whether the government will be able to provide services to citizens. |
| Jury duty | Jury duty has a major impact on a citizen’s right to a fair trial and on how the trial will turn out. |
| Defending the nation | People who defend the nation keep the country safe. |

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| **Responsibilities of a Citizen** | **How does this Impact Society, Government, or the Political Process?** |
| Voting | Voting impacts elected leaders who make political decisions. |
| Attending civic meetings | Decisions that impact the government and society are made at civic meetings (for example, at a city council or school  board meeting). |
| Petitioning government | Petitions can impact decisions made by the government and  can bring about change in communities because citizens use petitions to communicate with the government. |
| Community service | Communities and neighborhoods are improved when people volunteer their time and skills. |

If **citizens** did not fulfill their **responsibilities**, the United States would be a very different place.

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| **Responsibilities of a Citizen** | **What are the Consequences if People do not Fulfill this Responsibility?** |
| Voting | If people do not vote, the government will only represent those who do vote. |
| Attending civic meetings | If people do not participate in civic meetings, it is more difficult to get involved and know what is happening in the community and government. |
| Petitioning government | If people choose not to use this right, the government will assume that the people are happy with the government’s  decisions or that they don’t care. |
| Community service | If people choose not to volunteer in their community,  problems may be ignored and people who need help will not have their needs met. |

**citizen** - a legal member of a state and/or country

**obligation** - a requirement, something a person has to do

**petitioning the government** - the right to ask the government to solve a problem or to express an opinion about how the government is being run

**responsibility** - something a person should do