

NCSC'S 2017 CIVICS EDUCATION ESSAY CONTEST

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINNERS

FIRST PLACE WINNER

Alana Fiscella, Walsingham Academy Lower School, Williamsburg, Va.

Being a U.S. citizen means being a part of our country. We have big roles and citizens, but freedoms and rights, too. Part of it is obeying the law and voting, but the other part is being an individual and expressing yourself. Living in the U.S. is a huge privilege and an honor, knowing you're a respected person and an important individual, thanks to our beautiful country. No matter what religion or race, all citizens are treated equally. In conclusion, being a citizen is not only a privilege but a huge role for each of us in our united nation.

SECOND PLACE WINNER

Maya Pedroza, McPherson Magnet, Orange, Calif.

Being a U.S. citizen means that you have rights, freedom, and are treated the same as everyone else. There is no slavery – everyone is equal. You have a good economy and are protected by people, such as fireman and police officers. Everyone can vote for a president that they think would take care of our country. Men and women can both fight for peace and you can follow your dreams. Even if you are a different culture, you will be treated no differently. That is why I am honored to be a U.S. .

THIRD PLACE WINNER

Jaden Maldando, McNichols Educational Plaza, Scranton, Pa.

When you are a U.S. citizen, you have freedom. You are free to do whatever you like, as long as it isn't violent. When other people come to our country, they expect to live a better life than how they lived before. So when you're a U.S. citizen, you care about what happens in our country. Also, when you are a U.S. citizen you can work to do better things for the United States of America. Like how cops arrest criminals or how doctors and nurses help if you are hurt or sick. So when you're a U.S. citizen, you are always free to do what you want to do for our world and for other people and to make them feel safe in our country. When you are a U.S. citizen, you have freedom. You are free to do whatever you like,

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MIDDLE SCHOOL WINNERS

FIRST PLACE WINNER

Ryan Mendelhall, North Brandywine Middle School, Coatesville, Pa.

There is a difference between having citizenship, and being a citizen. Having citizenship means that you were born in the country, or that you passed the citizenship test. Being a citizen means using your civic rights. Some of these rights include the right to vote and the right to a fair trial by jury. Along with rights, there are also responsibilities that come with being a citizen such as serving on a jury when called. In conclusion, not using your rights or obeying your responsibilities is disrespecting your citizenship and thus a waste of that citizenship.

SECOND PLACE WINNER

Addison Dempsey, Ni River Middle School, Spotsylvania, Va.

What being a citizen
Means to me
To have duties
And responsibilities

To fight for our brothers
And all who are weak
Help to give a voice
To those who can't speak

What being a citizen
Means to me
To live our life
Happy and free.

To vote for who
Will be the best
And our problems
They will address

To be loyal and dedicated
To our land
With our country
We must stand

THIRD PLACE WINNER

Alejandra Ramos, Manatee Middle School, Naples, Fla.

Being a United States citizen is defined as being born or being naturalized in the U.S., but it truly means so much more. The Bill of Rights guarantees our inalienable rights of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. With the protection of the fourteenth amendment, we cannot be deprived of these rights. People from other nations interpret this as an amazing privilege because not all countries share similar freedoms. U.S. citizenship is incredible because it promises respect and dignity for all. Together, as one indivisible nation, we are included in the American experiment and protected under the Bill of Rights.

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HIGH SCHOOL WINNERS

FIRST PLACE WINNER

Maria Goelz, homeschooler, Evans City, Pa.

Being a United States citizen means first being well-informed so as to properly and wisely take an active role in our local, state, and national government. Second, it means being willing to give of our time and talent to our community that we may not only survive, but thrive. And finally, it means being willing to give our lives for the good of our fellow man – no matter their age or race – and to stand up for what is right, even if it is against the highest authority.

SECOND PLACE WINNER

James Brown, Wortham High School, Wortham, Texas

I stand before thee
In the halls of liberty
For I have the ability to shout
"I am free!"
On this land we inhabit
Of which our soldiers bravely protect
I respect their sacrifice for us
As a citizen of these lands

I honor our protectors
And swear to help in any way I can
As a citizen of this free country
The United States
I swear to stand by this country
For better
Or
For worse
And yes I stole a wedding verse

THIRD PLACE WINNER

Ryan McDaniel, Wortham High School, Wortham, Texas

Pride, freedom, respect, companionship... these are some words I would use to describe what it means to be an American citizen. We as U.S. citizens need to be proud of who we are and what we represent. America is the melting pot of the world; All races, all religions, everyone is accepted here, As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools." Being an American citizen is about being united together, when we're divided, we're not a country. "...One Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."