# DBQ: Why is good citizenship important?

- A DBQ is shorthand for document based question. A DBQ requires a question and a set of documents that students will examine and gather information about to answer the question, "Why is good citizenship important?"

## Materials:
- Engage: What does good citizenship look like to you?
- Background Information
- Document A - Letter
- Document B - Newspaper Article
- Document C - Photograph
- DBQ Prep Work
- DBQ Prep Work-MOD
- DBQ Essay
- Rubric: DBQ – What are the characteristics of a good citizen?
- Guide to DBQs

## Length of Lesson: 7 Days (1 day = 30 minutes)

## TEKS/SEs:

3.11 Citizenship. The student understands characteristics of good citizenship as exemplified by historical and contemporary figures. The student is expected to:

(A) Identify characteristics of good citizenship, including truthfulness, justice, equality, respect for oneself and others, responsibility in daily life, and participation in government by educating oneself about the issues, respectfully holding public officials to their word, and voting

(B) Identify historical figures such as Helen Keller and Clara Barton and contemporary figures such as Ruby Bridges and military and first responders who exemplify good citizenship

## Lesson objective(s):

Students will explain using documents why good citizenship important.

### ENGAGEMENT: Day 1

**Objective:** Students will review the characteristics of good citizenship.

- Organize students into pairs.
- Provide each student the attachment Engage - What does good citizenship look like to you?
- As a pair, students will come to a consensus of about how to rank the characteristics and will provide an example for the highest and lowest characteristic.
- Each group will share their answer. As students are sharing, the teacher will tally the number one picks and determine the class consensus about which characteristics are most important.
- After the activity is complete, the teacher will explain that in today’s lesson students will examine documents to why good citizenship is important.

### EXPLORATION: Day 2 – 5

**Objective:** Students will examine documents to answer the question, "Why is good citizenship important?"

- Students may be organized in small groups of two to three or may complete individually.
- The examination of documents needs to be monitored by the teacher in the classroom.
- Provide each student the following documents to examine. Students will examine each document and answer the questions.
  - Background Information
  - Document A - Letter
  - Document B - Newspaper Article
  - Document C - Photograph

### EXPLANATION: Day 6 - 7

**Objective:** Students will examine documents to answer the question, "Why is good citizenship important?"

- Students may be organized in small groups of two to three to organize information to respond to the DBQ question.
- Provide each student the attachment DBQ Prep Work.
• Students will use Background Information, Documents A - C and the attachment DBQ Prep Work to outline their short answer. This process should take one day.

• Students will use the attachment DBQ Prep Work to write the answer to the DBQ question, "Why is good citizenship important?"

• Students will write their short answer on the attachment DBQ Essay and the teachers will use the attachment Rubric: DBQ – Why is good citizenship important? The writing of the short answer should take 1 day.

• Teachers should refer to the attachment DBQ Essay Writing to assist and monitor the writing of the essay.

**Example of a possible essay**

Good citizenship is important because helps people in the community. Helen Keller helped people in the deaf community by raising money for them. She wrote Dr. Alexander Bell thanking him for his donation. Boys in the United States knitted sweaters for soldiers during World War I. Without sweaters, soldiers would be cold during winter. In closing, without good citizenship some people would not be taken care of in their communities.