

# Citizen Participation in a Democracy

## *How can you make a difference in a democracy?*

### Vocabulary Terms

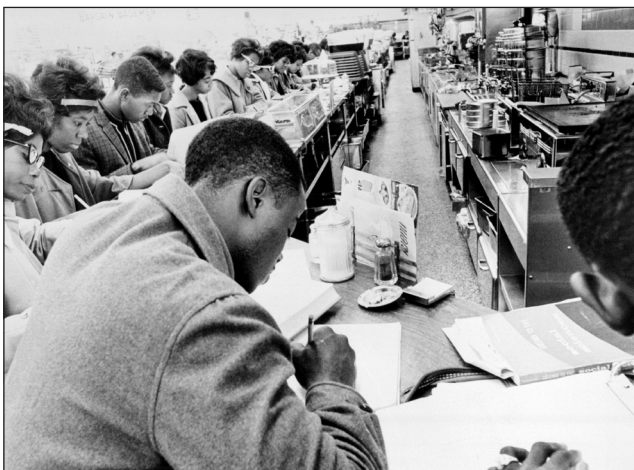
As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers:

citizenship	naturalization
lawful permanent resident	ideology
undocumented immigrant	liberalism
	conservatism
	civil society

### PREVIEW

Analyze the photograph below of a lunch counter sit-in. Then, answer these questions in your notebook:

1. What interesting details do you see?
2. What actions do these people appear to be taking?
3. What problem or problems do you think these people are trying to address?
4. What do you think the results of their actions were?



### READING NOTES

#### Section 1

Create a T-chart with the headings “Civic Rights” and “Civic Responsibilities.” As you read, record the rights and responsibilities that come with U.S. citizenship.

#### Section 2

Create a how-to flyer for becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen. Your flyer must include information on or an explanation of the following:

- requirements for becoming a citizen
- application for naturalization
- interview with an immigration official
- citizenship ceremony
- rights that new citizens gain

Organize the information in an attractive, easy-to-read format that would help people understand the naturalization process. Include at least one illustration.

**Section 3**

Answer these questions in your notebook:

1. Which shared political value do you feel is most important to the American way of life, and why?
2. Create a visual representation of the U.S. political landscape for each of these ideologies: liberalism, conservatism, socialism, libertarianism, environmentalism, and centrism. Follow these steps:
  - Create a simple illustration to represent the ideology.
  - Write a short definition or explanation of the ideology.
  - Rate the ideology on a scale of 1 (“I identify most closely with this ideology”) to 6 (“I do not identify with this ideology”).

**Section 4**

Answer these questions:

1. What is social capital, and do you think it is important? Why or why not?
2. Of the four categories of civic engagement, which best describes you (or will best describe you once you can vote), and why?

**P R O C E S S I N G**

Think about the problems facing your community, your country, or the world. Then choose one issue or problem that you feel strongly about. Write a short paragraph explaining why this is a problem. Back up your argument with at least one or two facts.

Now develop a plan of action to address the issue. Include in your plan of action at least two of the forms of civic participation you learned about.