



California Cadet Corps Curriculum on Citizenship



"Make the World a Better Place: Improve Yourself!"

C2C: Improve Your State, Country, and Planet

Updated: 3 JAN 2021



IMPROVE YOUR STATE, COUNTRY, AND PLANET

C1. What is Active Citizenship?

C2. How to be an Active Citizen

C3. Models for Active Citizenship

C4. Active Citizenship Self-Assessment



IMPROVING YOUR STATE, COUNTRY, AND PLANET: UNIT OBJECTIVES

The desired outcome of this unit is that Cadets will embrace their role as Active Citizens.

Plan of Action:

1. Define Active Citizenship in their own words
2. Differentiate between the rights and responsibilities of citizenship
3. Identify effective ways of volunteering as an Active Citizen
4. Identify the four dimensions of Active Citizenship
5. Identify the topics that Active Citizens should have a grasp of
6. Identify the skills and aptitudes of an Active Citizen
7. Identify the characteristics of Active Citizenship
8. Identify tips for the Active Citizen
9. Explain two Active Citizenship Models
10. Take an Active Citizen self-assessment



What is Active Citizenship?

OBJECTIVES:

DESIRED OUTCOME (Leadership)

Cadets will embrace their role as Active Citizens.

Plan of Action:

1. Define Active Citizenship in their own words
2. Differentiate between the rights and responsibilities of citizenship
3. Identify effective ways of volunteering as an Active Citizen
4. Identify the four dimensions of Active Citizenship
5. Identify the topics that Active Citizens should have a grasp of
6. Identify the skills and aptitudes of an Active Citizen

Essential Question:

What is an Active Citizen?



What is Active Citizenship?

Active Citizenship is the philosophy that citizens should work toward the improvement of their community, through economic participation, public volunteer work, and other such efforts to improve life for all citizens.



- Democracies need active, informed and responsible citizens; citizens who are willing and able to take responsibility for themselves and their communities and contribute to the political process.
- An effective Active Citizen is a person who understands the obligation and undertakes the responsibility to improve community conditions, build healthier communities and address social problems.



Active Citizenship

“I have a responsibility as a citizen to my community. It is both a responsibility and a privilege, because as I work to make my community a better place, I receive intrinsic benefits as well.”
- Anna Morton

- Active Citizens don't expect the government to solve every problem
- They want to engage within the government systems, with the support of governing agencies, to mutually solve problems and improve community life
- Citizens have rights AND responsibilities – it's our country too!



Volunteering

- Help out in the community
- Projects that improve life
- Lend your expertise to those who can't afford it
- Many hands make light work





Active Citizenship

- Active Citizenship brings people together
- Counters the isolation of the Internet
- Allows for discourse
- Brings out our similarities, makes us realize our differences are minor





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- Active Citizenship
- Democratic Values
- Representative Democracy
- Community Life
- Protest and Social Change
- Human Rights
- Intercultural Understanding
- Democracy
- Engagement in Political Parties
- Voting Turnout
- Women Participation in Political Life
- Volunteering
- Organized Civil Society
- Organized Labor Unions
- Engagement in Civil Society Organizations
- Engagement in Community Organizations
- Engagement in Political Parties



Summary of Active Citizenship

- ✓ Active Citizens are those who develop the skills, knowledge and understanding to be able to make informed decisions about their communities and workplaces with the aim of improving the quality of life
- ✓ An active citizen may challenge the rules and existing structures although they should generally stay within the bounds of democratic processes and not become involved in violent acts
- ✓ Active Citizens value respect, courage, openness, tolerance, listening, working
- ✓ Active Citizens participate in the community (involvement in a voluntary activity or engaging with local government agencies)



Active citizenship



Summary of Active Citizenship

- ✓ Active Citizens are empowered to play a part in the decisions and processes that affect them, particularly public policy and services
- ✓ Active Citizens have knowledge and understanding of the political/social/economic context of their participation so that they can make informed decisions
- ✓ Active Citizens are able to challenge policies or actions and existing structures on the basis of principles such as equality, inclusiveness, diversity and social justice
- ✓ Democracies need active, informed and responsible citizens who are willing and able to take responsibility for themselves and their communities and contribute to the political process



Active citizenship



Summary of Active Citizenship

Democracies depend upon citizens who are

- ✓ Aware of their rights and responsibilities as citizens
- ✓ Informed about the social and political world
- ✓ Concerned about the welfare of others
- ✓ Articulate in their opinions and arguments
- ✓ Capable of having an influence on the world
- ✓ Active in their communities
- ✓ Responsible in how they act as citizens



Active citizenship



Summary of Active Citizenship

Citizenship issues are

- ✓ Real: they actually affect peoples' lives
- ✓ Topical: current today
- ✓ Sometimes Sensitive: can affect people at a personal level, especially when family or friends are involved
- ✓ Often controversial: people disagree and hold strong opinions about them
- ✓ Ultimately moral: relate to what people think is right or wrong, good or bad, important or unimportant in society



Active citizenship



Summary of Active Citizenship

- ✓ Active Citizenship helps young people
 - to develop self-confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges such as bullying and discrimination
 - by giving them a voice in the life of their schools, communities, and society
 - to make a positive contribution by developing the expertise and experience needed to claim their rights and understand their responsibilities and preparing them for the challenges and opportunities of adult and working life



Active citizenship



Citizenship Education

- ✓ Essential elements of citizenship education are:
 - Knowledge and understanding about topics such as
 - laws and rules
 - the democratic process
 - the media
 - human rights diversity
 - money and the economy
 - sustainable development
 - the world as a global community
 - concepts such as democracy, justice, equality, freedom, authority, and the rule of law





Citizenship Education

- ✓ Essential elements of citizenship education are:
 - Skills and aptitudes:
 - Critical thinking
 - Analyzing information
 - Expressing opinions
 - Taking part in discussions and debates
 - Negotiating
 - Conflict resolution
 - Participating in community action





Citizenship Education

- ✓ Essential elements of citizenship education are:
 - Values and dispositions:
 - Respect for justice, democracy and the rule of law, openness, tolerance, courage to defend a point of view
 - Willingness to listen to, work with and stand up for others





Check On Understanding



1. Define *Active Citizenship* in your own words.
2. Which of the following are rights, and which are responsibilities?

HS Education	Stand up for Equality
Voting	Clean Water
Free Speech	Opportunity
3. Which of these is NOT one of the 4 Dimensions of Active Citizenship?

a) Democratic Values	c) Protest & Social Change
b) Community Life	d) Democratic Process
4. Identify the skills of an Active Citizen from these:

Critical thinking	Counseling
Debating	Conflict resolution



How to be an Active Citizen

OBJECTIVES:

DESIRED OUTCOME (Leadership)

Cadets will embrace their role as Active Citizens.

Plan of Action:

5. Identify the topics that Active Citizens should have a grasp of
7. Identify the characteristics of Active Citizenship
8. Identify tips for the Active Citizen

Essential Question:

What do we do to be an Active Citizen?



Being an Active Citizen





Topics Good Citizens Know:

- Laws and rules
- Voting for government office
- Role and influence of the media
- Human rights
- Cultural diversity
- Money and the economy
- The environment and sustainable development
- Concepts such as democracy, justice, equality, freedom, authority, and the rule of law





Characteristics of Active Citizenship

The Junior Chamber International (JCI) lists the following characteristics of active citizenship:

- Respect
- Honoring duties
- Being informed
- Compassion
- Active Involvement
- Working together
- Sustainable solutions
- Self-development
- Safe, stable and clean environment

**EVERY GOOD CITIZEN
ADDS TO THE STRENGTH
OF A NATION**

GORDON B HINCKLEY

PICTUREQUOTES.COM



Tips for Active Citizens

- ✓ Take only positive positions
- ✓ Listen to all peoples' views
- ✓ Avoid stereotyping
- ✓ Accept responsibility – don't blame others for a lack of success
- ✓ Be persistent
- ✓ Act
- ✓ Keep an ongoing assessment
- ✓ Celebrate milestones along the way to maintain motivation



Active citizenship



How to Create Positive Change





Practical Exercise

Match each problem with an action you could take in response.

Problems:

You learn that a local organization needs help building homes for people who are homeless

You support a candidate for an upcoming election. You know many young people in your community don't vote and you want more people to be involved

You believe a road near your school is not safe for students walking home. You want to show the city council that this problem affects many people.

Actions:

Get your friends to sign a petition, or a written request signed by many people, asking the government to put up a stop sign. Then, send the petition to the leaders of your city.

One Saturday each month, organize some of your friends to help paint walls and plant flowers for the new houses the group builds

Sign up to help register voters in your community and give people information about when and where to vote.



Practical Exercise

You might notice issues that you want to learn more about in your community. Imagine you are in the situations below. Match each situation with the steps you could take to become more informed.

<u>Situation:</u>	<u>How to Become Informed:</u>
You notice that some people living in your community don't have places to live. You would like to do something to help them.	Talk to your teachers or friends to see if they have also noticed this problem. Research different ways of encouraging cars to slow down in this area.
You see campaign signs in your community for candidates running for office. You don't know anything about the candidates and want to learn more.	Read an article in your local newspaper about a group that is working to end homelessness.
While walking to school you notice people driving fast and not stopping at a crosswalk. You wonder if people crossing the road will be safe.	Go to the websites of all of the candidates. Read what they believe and decide which candidate to support.

Group Activities available in Curriculum!
Check them out!!



**CALIFORNIA
CADET CORPS**

THE ACTIVE CITIZEN

Thoughts of young change-makers who attended the UDAAN 2013 Conference on climate change and creative activism

REALIZE

Being aware of what is happening and what should be done.
Criticizing and questioning. Understanding the problem.
Developing consciousness.

Realizing society needs help

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

Not waiting or complaining.
Taking a stand.

TAKE INITIATIVE

Not depending on anyone to start. Not being passive.
Taking a lead.

PARTICIPATE

Participate in community.
Use of democratic tools.
Comply with civic duties.

ACT

Get on the ground.
Chart out a plan or strategy.
Work and speak out
against injustice.

MOBILIZE

Raise awareness.
Bring people together
for a common cause.

CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETY

Local perspective: Make your
city or community better.



PURSUE COMMON GOOD

Global perspective: Make change
in environmental, economic and
socio-political issues



Making Change 2014



Check On Understanding



1. Which of these topics should good citizens have knowledge about?
 - a) The economy
 - b) Role of the media
 - c) Human rights
 - d) Laws & Rules
2. Which are characteristics of good citizens?
 - a) Respect
 - b) Nosiness
 - c) Being informed
 - d) Self-discipline
3. Name 3 Tips for Active Citizens



Models for Active Citizenship

OBJECTIVES:

DESIRED OUTCOME (Leadership)

Cadets will embrace their role as Active Citizens.

Plan of Action:

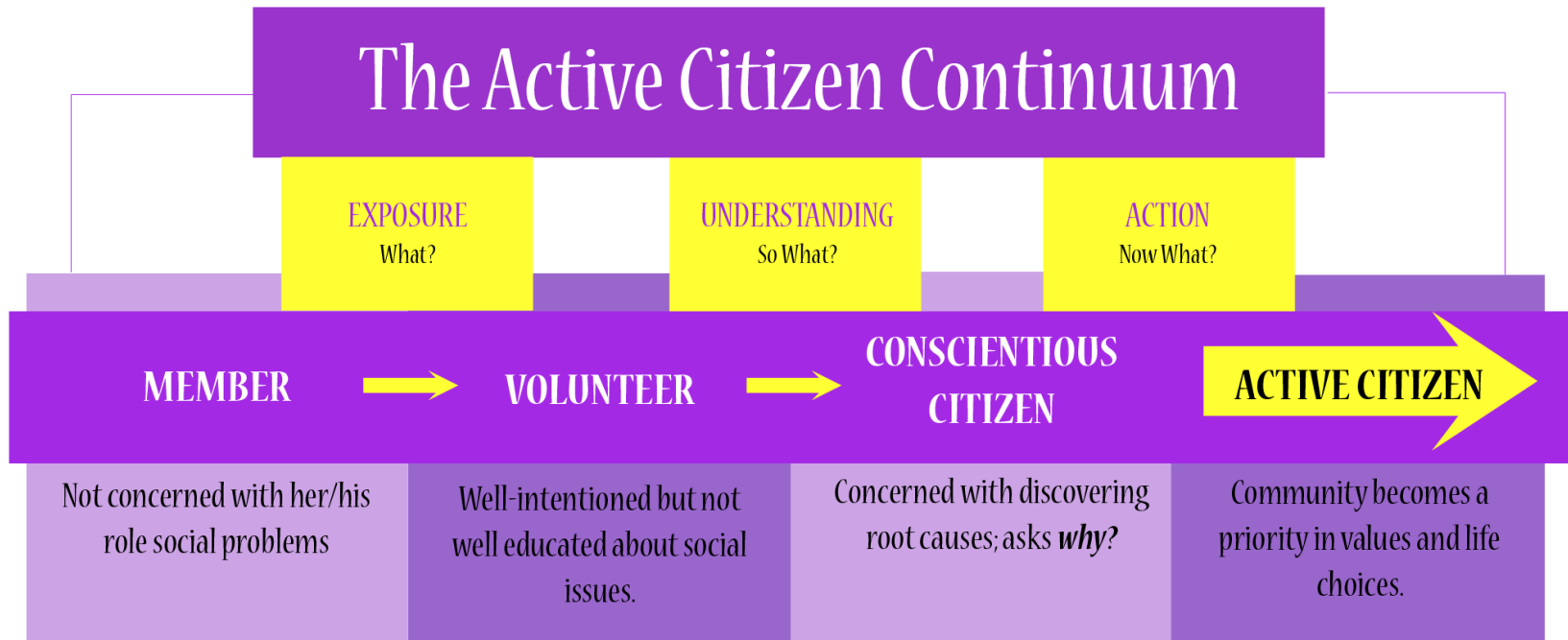
9. Explain two Active Citizenship Models

Essential Question:

What are the processes identified in an Active Citizenship model?



Model for Active Citizens



Where are you on this continuum?



“Take Part” Model



JCI Framework / Model



JCI Active Citizen Framework

A Better World Begins Here

ANALYZE

Examine Community Needs

To enable communities to achieve sustainable impact, the community's needs must be analyzed and understood first in order to identify their root causes.

REVIEW | Monitor and Evaluate Results

It is important to monitor progress throughout the project to determine if the goals and intended impact are on track to be achieved. Finally, analyze data to measure the resulting positive change.



DEVELOP | Formulate Sustainable Solutions

By uniting with stakeholders from all sectors of society, projects are formulated to address the community's core needs and their root causes. Collaborators outline a project plan including goals, actions and desired outcomes. Solutions target three integrated stages of community development that drive a community toward prosperity.

EXECUTE

Take Action

Once the need and root cause have been identified, active citizens take action by mobilizing resources, rallying support and implementing the project plan. By combining resources, the community is enabled to achieve even greater sustainable impact.

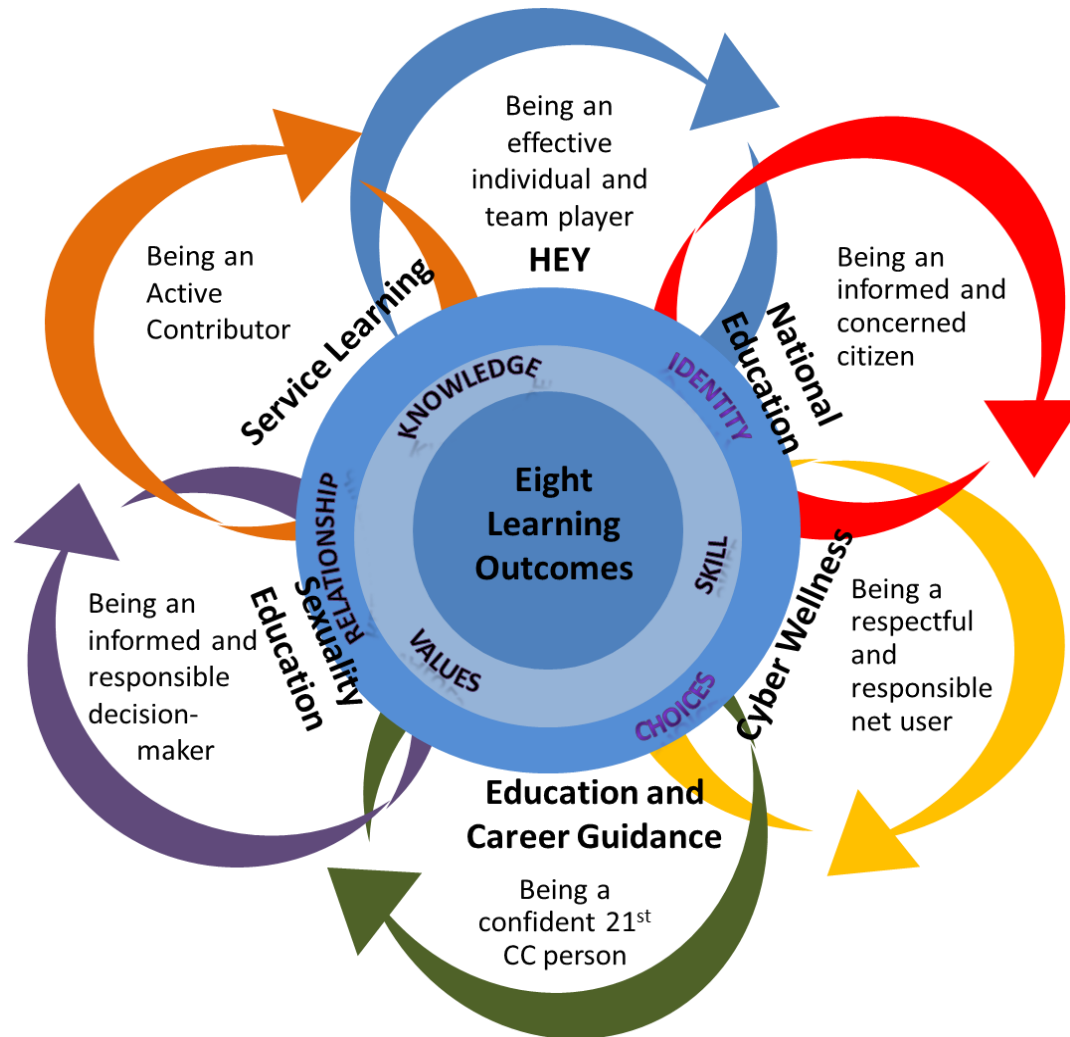
① Health and Wellness

② Education and Economic Empowerment

③ Peace, Prosperity, and Sustainability



Learning Outcomes of Character & Citizenship Development Model





Be an Active Citizen!

- Can you use the leadership skills you have learned in Cadet Corps and put them to use in other parts of your life?
- These models suggest that you can.
- If you want to be a contributing citizen of your community, California, the United States, and the World, you must be involved in issues that are important to you.
- A leader has an impact on others; as an active citizen, you can spread that impact, potentially around the world!





Check On Understanding



1. Take any one of these models and explain it in your own words
2. Make up a slide (PowerPoint or just on paper) that gives bullet points for your main ideas about the model
3. This may be done within the class in groups (each take a different model)



Active Citizenship Self-Assessment

OBJECTIVES:

DESIRED OUTCOME (Leadership)

Cadets will embrace their role as Active Citizens.

Plan of Action:

10. Take an Active Citizen self-assessment

Essential Question:

How good of an Active Citizen am I now?



Take the Self Assessment

<i>How active a local citizen are you?</i>		
<i>Answer the questions below by circling Yes/No (Y/N) or not applicable (NA).</i>		
1. Do you know the name of a local politician?		Y / N
2. Do you know how to make your views known to him/her?		Y / N
3. Do you volunteer to help any local organizations (e.g. Scouts, a church group, a local charity, a sports team)?	NA	Y / N
4. Do you try to welcome newcomers in your community?	NA	Y / N
5. Do you avoid using unpleasant names that discriminate against certain groups (i.e. using 'gay' as an insult; calling someone a 'nerd' or a 'pikey'; insulting someone because they have red hair)?		Y / N
6. Would you challenge someone else if you overheard them using insulting words about certain groups?	NA	Y / N
7. Do you know which organization(s) to approach about recycling locally?		Y / N
8. Do you think you have views that deserve to be taken seriously?		Y / N
9. Would you be prepared to present your views to a local politician?		Y / N
10. Which of these things have you done to get your views taken seriously?		Y / N
a. I produced a poster to support a campaign.		Y / N
b. I produced a PowerPoint and emailed it to my teacher.		Y / N
c. I wrote a letter or email and sent it to the right person.		Y / N
d. I produced a petition and got real signatures on it.		Y / N
e. I produced a survey and got some replies.		Y / N
f. I did something else (Explain what you did below)		Y / N
<hr/> <hr/> <p>Give yourself one Active Citizenship point for each 'Yes' My total Active Citizenship score is: _____</p>		



Use the Self-Assessment

- What was your Active Citizen score from the Assessment?
- Likely not (yet) very high
- That's okay!
- How can you be a more Active Citizen?
 - What actions that were listed on the Assessment could you do?
 - Can you think of an issue to address in your school or community?
 - Get involved!
 - Earn community service points for your ribbon!



Active citizenship



Check On Understanding



1. From the Active Citizenship Self-Assessment, what areas might you get better at?
2. What actions can you take to pursue an issue and get your views taken seriously?