

Perspectives on Citizens and Citizenship

The first duty of every citizen must be to work.

(Program of the National Socialist German Workers (Nazi) Party, February 24, 1920)

<http://fcit.usf.edu/HOLOCAUST/resource/DOCUMENT/PROGRAM.htm>

(accessed November 27, 2008)

The first duty of a citizen is to keep his mouth open.

(Günter Grass, Nobel Prize-winning German author)

My country, right or wrong; if right, to be kept right; and if wrong, to be set right.

(U.S. Senator Carl Schurz, 1872)

Citizenship refers to a person's legal status, to whether or not, for example, one is entitled to reside in a specific country and, in modern times, carry its passport.

David M. Ricci, in *Good Citizenship in America*

(New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2004), p. 7

<http://www.cambridge.org/us/catalogue/catalogue.asp?isbn=9780521543705&ss=exc>

(accessed November 21, 2008)

Every good citizen makes his country's honor his own, and cherishes it not only as precious but as sacred. He is willing to risk his life in its defense and is conscious that he gains protection while he gives it. (U.S. President Andrew Jackson)

Citizenship requires more than just obeying a country's laws and perhaps helping to make them. Citizenship requires, in addition, virtuous behavior. It obliges citizens to use their political resources and skills to participate well, that is, to maintain not just effective laws but also a decent state.

David M. Ricci, in *Good Citizenship in America*

(New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2004), p. 8

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