

ALRC Citizenship Resource Guide

This Resource Guide contains a wide variety of materials useful to citizenship educators including print, audio, and video resources. Many are web-based and available at no cost. The Resource Guide is organized into the following categories:

- A. USCIS Resources
- B. General Resources for Teaching U.S. Civics
- C. Specialized Resources for the Naturalization Interview and Tests
- D. Citizenship Textbooks

A. USCIS Resources

Note: Many of the USCIS resources in this section can also be found by exploring the Citizenship Resource Center, www.uscis.gov/citizenship.

1. USCIS Website

This is the official USCIS website. It contains extensive information and resources including services and benefits, immigration forms, laws and regulations, educational resources, and more. There is a companion website in Spanish that contains some of the information in the English version.

English: www.uscis.gov

Spanish: www.uscis.gov/espanol

2. Citizenship Resource Center

This Resource Center has information, materials, and links for citizenship learners, teachers, and organizations. It contains links to many other USCIS products and materials.

www.uscis.gov/citizenship

3. A Guide to Naturalization

A Guide to Naturalization is an excellent resource for understanding the naturalization process. It contains information about who is eligible for citizenship as well as detailed information on the steps in the naturalization process. The section explaining the exemptions to being tested in English is particularly helpful.

www.uscis.gov/natzguide

4. Becoming a U.S. Citizen: An Overview of the Naturalization Process (video)

This 11-minute flash presentation provides a basic overview of naturalization including the requirements and steps involved. A CD-ROM is available for purchase through the Government Printing Office, or the presentation can be played from the USCIS website.

www.uscis.gov/citizenship/teachers/educational-products/becoming-us-citizen-overview-naturalization-process

5. Civics Flash Cards for the Naturalization Test

These flashcards are popular with teachers and students alike. The full-color cards show the question, answer, and a picture for each of the 100 civics questions. Educators and students can print the cards from the USCIS website and then cut and fold them to make their own set. Alternatively, they can purchase sets from the U.S. Government Bookstore.

Printable Flashcards:

www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/M-623_red_slides.pdf

U.S. Government Bookstore: <http://bookstore.gpo.gov/>

6. Expanding ESL, Civics, and Citizenship Education in Your Community

This publication contains information about starting and maintaining an ESL, civics, or citizenship class. Topics include designing, staffing, marketing a program; program content and instruction; and program development. There are also sample materials that programs can use or adapt.

<https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/M-677.pdf>

7 A. USCIS Guide to the Adult Citizenship Education Content Standards and Foundation Skills: A Framework for Developing a Comprehensive Curriculum

This guide is organized around the three phases of the naturalization process: 1) pre-Interview, 2) interview and test, and 3) post-interview. Content standards and relevant progress standards are indicated for each phase. This guide can be used to develop a citizenship curriculum, plan thematic lessons, and create learning activities.

<https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/M-1121.pdf>

7 B. USCIS Adult Citizenship Education Sample Curriculum for a Low Beginning ESL Course

This sample curriculum is designed to be a model for developing a program's own citizenship curriculum. The document has four components: the curriculum abstract, the scope and sequence, the syllabus, and the units and lesson plans. The Sample Curriculum works in tandem with the Content Standards document (#7A, above).

<https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/M-1166.pdf>

8. USCIS Lesson Plans and Activities

This section of the USCIS Citizenship Resource Center contains beginning and intermediate level lessons which are correlated with questions covered in the civics and the English portions of the test. The website provides downloadable lesson plans, instructions with suggested teaching strategies, handouts, and answer keys. Handouts provide communicative skills practice with listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in context.

<http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/teachers/lesson-plans-and-activities>

9. USCIS Naturalization Interview and Test (video)

This video provides an overview of a citizenship interview. It contains examples of the various parts of the citizenship interview including the applicant going through security, presenting the appointment letter, being called by the officer, being placed under oath, and taking the various naturalization tests. It is very useful for helping students know what to expect on the day of their interview.

The video can be played from the USCIS website or the USCIS YouTube Channel:

USCIS Website:

www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.acfc8bb2d633f506e34f4a10526e0aa0/?vgnextoid=64f22cac1551b210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=5efcebb7d4ff821_0VgnVCM10000025e6a00aRCRD

USCIS YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/user/uscis

10. USCIS Themed Resources

This link offers thematic materials covered in the civics test. Themed resources include Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Constitution Day, Citizenship Day, and Bill of Rights Day.

<https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/teachers/martin-luther-king-jr-day>

11. USCIS Training and Professional Development

This webpage provides links to free on-line tools and materials to better prepare students for citizenship and the naturalization process. (training, tip sheets, and podcasts)

<http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/teachers/training-and-professional-development>

12. USCIS Understanding Key Concepts Found in Form N-400, Application for Naturalization: A Guide for Adult Citizenship Teachers

This guide identifies the eight key concepts found in the Form N-400 (*Names, Addresses, Family Relationships, Employment and Schooling, Duration of Time Have you ever/Were you ever constructions, Memberships and Associations, and Promises and Oath*). Students must understand these concepts to complete the Form N-400 and also to respond to the adjudicator's questions during their naturalization interview. This guide assists teachers in creating thematic lessons around the eight key concepts using the four communicative skills and includes teaching activities for the classroom.

<https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/M-1118.pdf>

13. Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants

This guide explains many features of living in the U.S. to new immigrants. It is available in 14 languages and can be downloaded and printed from the USCIS website.

www.uscis.gov/newimmigrants

14. USCIS: Civics Test Study Tools (downloadable app)

This is the official USCIS app designed to help applicants study for the civics test portion of the naturalization interview. It provides practice with the 100 civics questions and answers. The app is currently available in English and Spanish.

<https://my.uscis.gov/prep/test/civics>

B. General Resources for Teaching U.S. Civics

While the resources in this section are not designed specifically for the U.S. naturalization interview or tests, they provide citizenship educators and students with additional materials for learning about U.S. history, government, and civics.

15. America's Historical Documents

This website from the National Archives provides information about the important historical documents that shaped the U.S. into the nation it is today. Many of the documents (such as the U.S. Constitution) have online resources that teachers can access to learn more or to use in their classes.

<http://www.archives.gov/historical-docs/>

16. Archiving Early America

This site provides a unique array of primary source documents from 18th Century America. Scenes and portraits from original newspapers, magazines, maps, and writings come to life just as they appeared more than 250 years ago.

<http://www.varsitytutors.com/earlyamerica>

17. Ben's Guide to U. S. Government for Kids

This website is designed for children, but its excellent explanations of how the U.S. government works are appropriate for adults as well. Teachers choose an age level correlating to the level of difficulty (4-8, 9-13, 14+) and then access materials about the three branches of government, the election process, how laws are made, and more.

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov>

18. Center for Civic Education

This is a daily 60-Second Civics podcast that provides a quick and convenient way for students to learn about the US government, the Constitution, and US history. The podcast explores themes related to civics and government, the constitutional issues behind the headlines, and the people and ideas that formed our nation's history and government.

<http://www.civiced.org/60-second-civics>

19. EL/Civics for ESL Students

This site has pictures and basic facts about civics, government, and history as well as information and activities about holidays.

www.elcivics.com/

20. Harry S. Truman Library and Museum

The education section of this website has comprehensive information and activities about the three branches of government. Each branch has an overview, a worksheet, and an online activity to help students look up their representatives or senators. It is also a useful review for teachers who need to brush up on the three branches.

www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/teacher_lessons/3branches/front.htm

21. Presidents of the United States

This portion of the official White House website provides pictures, bibliographies, and timelines for each U.S. president.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/>

22. USA.gov

This site provides links to a variety of federal, state, and local government agencies. It also has links for all of the official websites of offices and agencies under each of the three branches. www.usa.gov

23. Voice of America

This site plays radio broadcasts about a variety of topics. Two of the listening links feature American History and American Presidents.

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/programs/radio>

C. Specialized Resources for the Naturalization Interview and Tests

24. Citizenship News

This website helps keep citizenship educators updated on naturalization testing issues, including information from USCIS and important changes in policy and practice. Teachers can sign up to receive periodic information emails.

www.citizenshipnews.us

25. The Citizenship Test

This publication is a comprehensive study guide to the naturalization process for advanced ESL students or citizenship teachers. It explains the naturalization test requirements and contains 13 units on U.S. history and civics. It is available as a download.

<https://cliniclegal.org/citizenshiptest>

26. Citizenship Tool Kit

This toolkit is divided into topical sections and contains a variety of resources collected and produced through CLINIC's citizenship projects. It is designed to assist educators and agencies provide citizenship services.

https://cliniclegal.org/clinic_toolkit/citizenship

27. Citizenship Study Guide

This website provides opportunities for students to practice the 100 questions, reading and writing activities, and the N-400 questions.

<http://www.citizenshipstudyguide.com/>

28. Citizenship Teacher: Online Student Practice Activities

This webpage contains a variety of free student practice activities and quizzes designed by the Adult Learning Resource Center. The practice activities (which include matching, concentration, fill-in-the-blank, and sorting exercises) help students master the information in the 100 civics questions and the words on the reading and writing vocabulary lists.

www.quia.com/profiles/citizenshipteacher

29. Citizenship Teacher Tutorials

The Adult Learning Resource Center has created brief, online multimedia presentations that educators can access at any time. Teachers and tutors will find valuable information about teaching the reading and writing tests, helping students study between classes, and more. www.thecenterweb.org/alrc/citizenship-tutorial.html

30. Civics Practice Test

This website provides opportunities for students to practice the 100 questions and allows the student to arrange the questions by topics (American Government, American History, Integrated Civics). There is an audio option to hear and read the 100 civics questions and answers. Additionally, there is a link to practice the 100 questions in Spanish.

<https://civicsquestions.com/>

31. Preparing for the Oath: U.S. History and Civics for Citizenship

This website was developed through a collaboration of the Smithsonian National American History Museum and the USCIS. There is a collection of mini-videos, activities, and quizzes for the 100 civics questions. Also included are teacher guides and lesson plans.

www.americanhistory.si.edu/citizenship

32. Refugee Center Online Classroom

This website helps citizenship students prepare for the different parts of the U.S. citizenship test with 31 units of study. There is a study guide to read online and practice.

<https://therefugeecenter.org/>

33. USA Learns Citizenship Course

This website offers 4 thorough instructional units to help students prepare for the naturalization interview and tests: 1) Steps to Becoming a US Citizen, 2) N-400 Interview Practice, 3) Civics, Reading and Writing Practice, and 4) The Interview and Your New Citizenship. Each unit has numerous activities including mini-videos, listening practice, speaking practice, and quizzes. A unique feature allows students to record themselves and listen back to help develop pronunciation and oral fluency. Students must have a valid email address to use the site.

<https://www.usalearns.org/usa-learns-citizenship>

34. U.S. Citizenship Support

This website has activities for the English test and civics test and can be used on a computer, tablet, or smartphone. The English test practice includes N-400 quizzes, N-400 vocabulary, writing, reading, commands, and small talk. The civics test practice includes the 100 civics questions, civics and government quizzes, and flashcards.

<http://uscitizenshipsupport.com/>

35. U.S. Citizenship Podcast

This teacher-developed website contains many resources useful to both citizenship educators and students. Especially helpful are the audio files which include the 100 civics questions, questions from the N-400, and numerous sample interview segments featuring actual students. There are also a number of sample interview scripts at various English levels in PDF format that be downloaded.

<http://uscitizenpod.com/>

36. YouTube-Essa Group

This YouTube link offers students several practice activities with the 100 civics questions and with the writing portion of the English test.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/EssaGroupCitizenshipLessonsandPracticeExams>

D. Citizenship Textbooks

37. Citizenship: Passing the Test, 3rd Edition (2009, 2016)

This textbook series is widely used for citizenship preparation. There are three separate books:

- *Civics and Literacy* (2009): student book that is widely used as a primary textbook
- *Ready for the Interview* (2016): student book that covers the information on the current N-400 application and prepares students to pass the speaking test
- *Literacy Skills* (2009): supplemental workbook for students with very low literacy skills

Each book has an audio CD sold separately. A teacher's guide is also sold separately.

www.newreaderspress.com

38. Future U.S. Citizens with Active Book (2011)

This textbook combines print lessons with self-study digital lessons. It comes with an "Active Book," a DVD that contains a digital version of the textbook, interactive practice activities such as flashcards and dictation, model video interviews, and MP3 audio files. Civics, speaking test preparation, and reading/ writing test preparation are included.

<http://www.longmanhomeusa.com/product/product-detail-components/?sid=Civics&pid=F-0JD-1&isbn=9780131381667&tab>

39. US Citizenship Bootcamp, 2nd Edition (2017)

This textbook helps students prepare for the interview by completing a series of ten interviews based on the current N-400 Application for Naturalization. The first interview includes five basic questions in simple English from the N-400 and five USCIS Civics questions; the subsequent interviews expand on these questions and gradually introduce new vocabulary and grammar patterns. Also included is a special chapter titled "How to Study for Your Citizenship Interview."

www.eslpublishing.com

40. Voices of Freedom: English and Civics, 4th Edition (2010)

This textbook focuses heavily on civics content through lessons and activities that prepare students for the U.S. naturalization interview and tests. Two audio CDs containing the 100 questions and listening comprehension activities are included with the book. A workbook and a teacher's guide with a wide variety of reproducible classroom activities are sold separately. www.longmanhomeusa.com/

41. McGraw-Hill's U.S. Citizenship Test with DVD (2009)

This textbook prepares students for both the civics test and the N-400 interview. It includes a DVD with four sample interviews. This book is a re-publication of the 2009 textbook **Citizenship Now! A Complete Guide for Naturalization**, previously available from Cambridge University Press and now out of print.

<https://www.mhprofessional.com/9780071605168-usa-mcgraw-hills-us-citizenship-test-with-dvd>