



Day Two - Citizenship

“No one is born a good citizen, or a good democrat or a good leader; it takes time and education.” - Kofi Annan

What does it mean to be a citizen? In a 2018 CBS poll, 93% of Americans agreed that welcoming people from different cultures is an important aspect of the American way of life, but those of us born into our citizenship often take for granted the responsibility that comes with our birthright. Today let's consider how our role as citizens is critical to sustaining a healthy democracy.

Choose One of Today's Challenges

#1: Would you pass the citizenship test?

- [Take a practice test.](#)
- [Read the naturalization oath](#) every new citizen recites at the naturalization ceremony. Extra credit if you actually read it out loud.

#2: Everyone's American citizenship journey is different and sharing them can teach us about our values and privileges.

- [Read some personal stories](#) from the New Americans Campaign

- [If you've got access to Netflix, watch the short \(34 min\) documentary, *Out of Many, One*.](#)

#3: What if the word citizen was a verb instead of a noun? When you think about citizen as a word of action instead of a set of privileges, does that change your mindset about civic duty?

- [Listen to this episode of How to Citizen with Baratunde](#) (60 min) when he speaks with Eric Lui, founder of [Citizen University](#) about citizenship in action in America

#4: What does it take to be a good citizen?

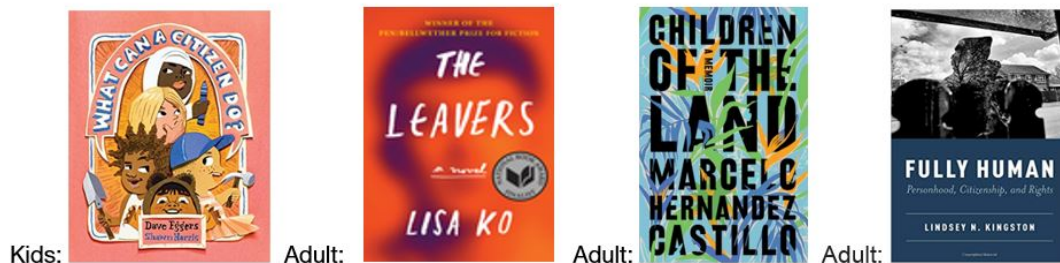
- [Take a look at what Pew Research found](#) and consider which activities you'd remove and which you'd add?

Want to do more?

- [Volunteer with Global Cleveland to be a Community Navigator](#). You'll be trained to work with members of ethnic communities in our own backyard to make sure they understand their rights and can find a path to citizenship.

Recommended Reading

Here are few books you might like. For more, check out our 5 Days for Democracy [collection](#).



Related City Club Forums

Here are a few City Club forums you might like. For more, check out a more [extensive selection from our archives](#).

[Danial Garza](#): Executive Director of The LIBRE Initiative, on Reforming Immigration Law

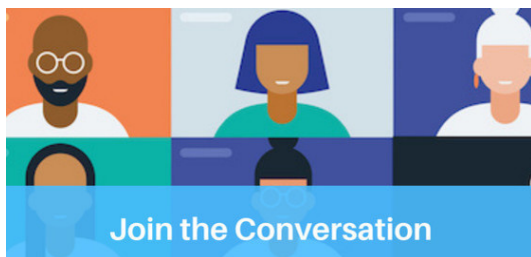
[Khzir Khan](#): Gold Star Parent and Constitutional Rights Advocate on the Power of Citizenship

[ConstitutionALE: A City Club Panel on Birthright Citizenship](#)

[Kavita Pawria-Sanchez](#): New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs on Civil Rights

We Want to Hear From You

Share your reflections about today's challenges on social media using **#5days4democracy**. Send ideas about what you would like to challenge people to learn about today's topic to fivedays@cityclub.org. **Join the 5 Days for Democracy Common Ground conversation** on Saturday, October 3 to connect with participants and continue the discussion.



Five Days for Democracy is a collaboration between The City Club of Cleveland, [Cleveland Public Library](#), [Cuyahoga County Public Library](#), [East Cleveland Public Library](#), [Euclid Public Library](#), [Heights Libraries](#), [Lakewood Public Library](#), [Rocky River Public Library](#), [Shaker Heights Public Library](#) and [Westlake Porter Public Library](#).

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