

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) has defined an effective citizen as one who has the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to assume the "office of citizen" in the democratic republic of the United States. According to NSCC, an effective citizen:

- EMBRACES CORE DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND STRIVES TO LIVE BY THEM.
- ACCEPTS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WELL-BEING OF ONESELF, ONES FAMILY, AND THE COMMUNITY.
- HAS KNOWLEDGE OF THE PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND TRADITIONS THAT HAVE SHAPED THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES, OUR NATION, AND THE WORLD.
- HAS KNOWLEDGE OF OUR NATION'S FOUNDING DOCUMENTS, CIVIC INSTITUTIONS, AND POLITICAL PROCESSES.
- IS AWARE OF ISSUES AND EVENTS THAT HAVE AN IMPACT ON PEOPLE AT LOCAL, STATE, NATIONAL, AND GLOBAL LEVELS.
- SEEKS INFORMATION FROM VARIED SOURCES AND PERSPECTIVES TO DEVELOP INFORMED OPINIONS AND CREATIVE SOLUTIONS.
- ASKS MEANINGFUL QUESTIONS AND IS ABLE TO ANALYZE AND EVALUATE INFORMATION AND IDEAS.
- USES EFFECTIVE DECISION-MAKING AND PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIFE.
- HAS THE ABILITY TO COLLABORATE EFFECTIVELY AS A MEMBER OF THE GROUP.
- ACTIVELY PARTICIPATES IN CIVIC AND COMMUNITY LIFE.