

The Naturalization Process

PART ONE: REQUIREMENTS FOR CITIZENSHIP

Immigrants can become U.S. citizens by the naturalization process. This process includes filing applications, attending an interview with an immigration official, and passing exams.

Requirements for Citizenship

- be at least 18 years old
- have lived in the U.S. as a legal resident for at least five years
- be of good moral character and loyal to the U.S.
- show the ability to read, write, speak, and understand basic English
- pass a test of basic knowledge of U.S. history and government
- take an oath of allegiance to the United States

1. Which of these requirements might be most challenging? Why?

2. Do you think these requirements are stricter for naturalized citizens than for citizens by birth? Explain.

3. Why do you think naturalized citizens must show an understanding of history, government, and English?

After a person's application is approved and an immigration official decides that the person is qualified to become a U.S. citizen, the person joins a group of people in court to take an oath of loyalty to the United States.

The Oath of Allegiance to the United States

I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God. In acknowledgement whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature.

Name: _____

Block: _____

PERFECT CITIZEN

GOVERNMENT

MR. MORAN

Describe the perfect applicant for naturalization by filling in the following criteria. Provide a 3-5 bullet points explaining your reasoning.

CATEGORY	(What should it be?) ATTRIBUTE	(Why should it be that way?) JUSTIFICATION
age		
country of origin		
health considerations		
criminal convictions		
communication skills		
moral behavior		
loyalty to American values		
knowledge of govt. & history		