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## "What's the Difference Between Rights, Responsibilities and Duties of a U.S. Citizen?

Rights: Opportunities that citizens are guaranteed by law

Responsibilities: Behaviors, not required by law, that citizens could and often should choose, in order to meet the rights of

others and self

Duties: Behaviors that citizens are required to do by law

Every right is balanced by a responsibility or a duty. One person cannot have their rights if someone else, somewhere, has not taken the responsibility or done the duty to meet those rights. For example, citizens have the right to vote in an election. However, if nobody has organized the voting system, set up the booths, printed the ballots, etc., then the citizens cannot vote and therefore will not get their right. If your rights are being met, then others are showing responsibility toward you. You, too, must show the same toward others.

Using the definitions above, decide which category fits each statement below. Choose only one, unless otherwise directed. Make an X in the correct box.

		Right	Responsibility	Duty
1	Pay taxes to support police and fire departments, schools and roads.			
2	Be informed about government issues. (Choose 2)			
3	Make sure your children are educated.			
4	Write to the newspaper with your opinion on which person to elect.			
5	Serve on a jury for a trial.			
6	Vote in elections. (Choose 2)			
7	Create friendships with others.			
8	Obey traffic laws.			
9	Have a lawyer with you when answering questions from the police.			
10	Volunteer to keep the environment clean.			
11	Buy a home in any neighborhood you like.			
12	Respect other people's property. (Choose 2)			
13	Register for the selective service (military draft), if you are a male, at age 18.			

