



Meaning Maker.org

- Meaning Maker American Citizenship Edition provides a structure for making the most of your American experience.

**Your personal tool for a
“Value Added” experience.**

- Organize your thoughts and cultivate purpose every time you question or think you understand what it means to be American. Great for election season banter, term papers, office parties, mental gymnastics, stimulating discussions, family feuds, nostalgia, international travel preparation, and social gatherings of all types and sizes.
- Complete periodically. Share with friends and strangers.
- Over time, Meaning Maker American Citizenship Edition will provide you with a cohesive concept of the American experience.
- Meaning Maker American Citizenship Edition is good for denying affiliation; impressing friends and lovers; inspecting bandwagons; making foreign contacts; looking smart on paper; endearing oneself to like-minded cronies; reinforcing fear, loathing, and patriotism; general disillusionment and denial; and adding spice to all sorts of conversations.

Meaning Maker comes in a variety of experiences.
Download and print Meaning Makers
for all of your reflective quests.

Log onto meaningmaker.org
to share your Meaning Maker experience.

TRIVIA (popular knowledge)

	true	false
The president can declare war	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is a red button	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The vice president pays taxes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The first lady is on the payroll	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The president must serve in the military	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The president must be a lawyer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The president must be Christian	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The president must be male	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The president must be white	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The president must be wealthy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The president must be heterosexual	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The president must be intelligent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The president must look good on TV	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The president must have charisma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The president has his own bathroom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The first man is the president’s husband	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Presidents never lie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Starbucks is America’s national coffee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right wing media tell the truth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Left wing media tell the truth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corporate media tell the truth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The left is right	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The right is wrong	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The year I was born:

The President was _____

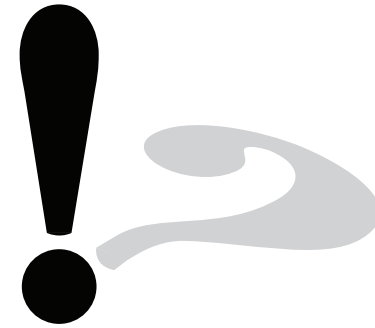
The National Debt was \$ _____

Date these historical events

? 1787 1861 1863 1892 1920 1929 1941 1954 1954 1973 1991 1996 2006 ?

- _____ The attack on Pearl Harbor
- _____ Women’s suffrage
- _____ Beginning of the Civil War
- _____ China annexes the solar system
- _____ Indian Removal Act
- _____ The end of the Cold War
- _____ Equal Rights Amendment
- _____ U.S. Constitution is adopted
- _____ The Great Depression
- _____ Roe v. Wade
- _____ Launch of Meaning Maker
- _____ Brown v. The Board of Education
- _____ Emancipation Proclamation
- _____ The sterilization of the NEA
- _____ The year “under God” was added to The Pledge of Allegiance

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American Citizenship Edition

Instructions:

Complete until correct. File for future reference.

Current President _____

War or Peace _____

Ruling Party _____

Date _____

ABOUT CITIZENSHIP *(defining the terrain)*

American Citizenship means:

- freedom is a right
- tolerating ignorance
- the right to vote
- I must obey laws
- social responsibility
- free education
- social equality
- having a dream
- dreaming of money
- being a patriot
- religious freedom
- paying taxes
- social welfare
- life, liberty & the pursuit of happiness
- knowing your celebrities
- the government is always right
- keeping up with the Jones
- I might get social security
- access to health care
- opportunities for prosperity
- the right to question
- my rights are protected
- personal accountability
- service to the country
- tolerating religious fanaticism
- conspicuous consumption
- international embarrassment

My citizenship status:

- is at risk
- was a privilege of birth
- I am here illegally
- I wish I were a citizen
- I am here to study
- I received amnesty
- I am naturalized
- I was born in the U.S.A.
- I married a U.S. citizen
- I am here on political asylum
- I am here for business
- I have dual citizenship
- I am just visiting

SYSTEM COMPREHENSION *(astuteness, awareness, savvy)*

I understand:

- The Bill of Rights
- The Monroe Doctrine
- The Capitalist Creed
- the responsibilities of citizenship
- the separation of church and state
- The Project for the New American Century
- my Constitutional Rights
- The Declaration of Independence
- The Ten Commandments

I can explain:

- the rule of law
- due process
- how laws are made
- what marriage is
- the electoral vote
- how Congress and the Senate work together
- habeas corpus
- martial law
- where my tax dollars go
- innocent until proven guilty
- the three branches of government

I can recite:

- my Miranda rights
- The 10 Freedom amendments in The Bill of Rights
- my state's animal, bird and flower
- the names of all of the presidents in order
- The Pledge of Allegiance

I know:

- and can sing our national anthem
- and can identify all fifty states on a blank map
- the year of the first American presidency

- the shape of the pentagon
- what they do at the pentagon
- the difference between the Patriot Act and Patriot missiles
- where the president and vice president live
- who America has sold WMD to
- the president's and vice president's salaries
- who America's coalition partners, allies and enemies are
- the meaning behind the flag's stars and stripes
- how much of America is owned by China
- the elected democracies America has overthrown
- who the donkeys and elephants are

I believe:

- Manifest Destiny was justified
- the private lives of politicians are of public concern
- military service is everyone's responsibility
- America is the greatest nation in the world
- America is a Christian nation
- America should apologize for indigenous genocide
- America should apologize for slavery
- democracy is worth fighting for
- the natives welcomed the immigrants on the Mayflower
- my child can grow up to be president
- Americans deserve their privilege

I understand the platforms of these political parties:

- Republican
- Green
- Labor
- Constitution
- Nazi
- New
- Reform
- Workers
- Light
- American Independent
- Other _____
- Democratic
- Socialist
- Independence
- Communist
- The Greens
- New Union
- U.S. Marijuana
- Veterans
- Family Values
- Socialist Labor
- Socialist Workers
- Libertarian
- Peace & Freedom
- Freedom Socialist
- American
- Natural Law
- Prohibition
- U.S. Pacifists
- We the People
- Socialist Labor
- Socialist Workers

The purpose of presidential speeches is:

- tradition
- to communicate
- job requirement
- celebrity development
- to disseminate sound bites for the media
- to comfort
- manipulation of the masses
- self-aggrandizement
- to persuade the constituency
- damage control

What do the following acronyms stand for:

NASA	WPA	NEA	FEMA	WIC	NAACP
ERA	NRA	NPR	ED	WMD	LGBTQQF
RSBT	PTSD	PNAC	ACLU	ESP	GMO
FBI	AARP	NAFTA	WHO	WTO	NATO
MOAB	GOP	ADA	BLM	ADD	STD
CSI	MIA	KIA	POW	CNN	POTUS
BBC	SNAFU	CIA	HIV	IRS	UNICEF
FUBAR	FART	AWOL	INS	JANFU	DARPA

MY CONCERNS *(rate the issues)*

Degree of concern:

1 = very important 5 = not important

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> immigration | <input type="checkbox"/> corruption | <input type="checkbox"/> global warming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> abortion | <input type="checkbox"/> ignorance | <input type="checkbox"/> corporate welfare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> health care | <input type="checkbox"/> lobbyists | <input type="checkbox"/> election fraud |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FEMA | <input type="checkbox"/> cronyism | <input type="checkbox"/> power mongering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> medicare | <input type="checkbox"/> social security | <input type="checkbox"/> affirmative action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> welfare | <input type="checkbox"/> prostitution | <input type="checkbox"/> dumbing down |
| <input type="checkbox"/> war on drugs | <input type="checkbox"/> pit bull laws | <input type="checkbox"/> insurance fraud |
| <input type="checkbox"/> right to die | <input type="checkbox"/> illegal wars | <input type="checkbox"/> off shore drilling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> gay rights | <input type="checkbox"/> death penalty | <input type="checkbox"/> truth in reporting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> leaks | <input type="checkbox"/> free speech | <input type="checkbox"/> marriage laws |
| <input type="checkbox"/> privacy | <input type="checkbox"/> trade laws | <input type="checkbox"/> gender equality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> unions | <input type="checkbox"/> tax policies | <input type="checkbox"/> national debt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> housing | <input type="checkbox"/> domestic violence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the draft | <input type="checkbox"/> due process | <input type="checkbox"/> police brutality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> literacy | <input type="checkbox"/> pornography | <input type="checkbox"/> bipartisanship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> jobs | <input type="checkbox"/> sweat shops | <input type="checkbox"/> discrimination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> terrorism | <input type="checkbox"/> arts funding | <input type="checkbox"/> endangered species |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Head Start | <input type="checkbox"/> human rights | <input type="checkbox"/> hidden agendas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> aging | <input type="checkbox"/> animal rights | <input type="checkbox"/> full disclosure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> genetic engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> government surveillance | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> media consolidation | <input type="checkbox"/> separation of church & state | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> human cloning | <input type="checkbox"/> military industrial complex | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> stem cell research | <input type="checkbox"/> prison industrial complex | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> campaign financing | <input type="checkbox"/> agricultural assistance | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> nuclear proliferation | <input type="checkbox"/> colonialism/imperialism | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> medical marijuana | <input type="checkbox"/> preservation of nature | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> prescription drug prices | <input type="checkbox"/> right to play the accordion | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> every child left behind | <input type="checkbox"/> environmental degradation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> disaster preparedness | <input type="checkbox"/> faith based initiatives | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American superiority | <input type="checkbox"/> preserving the monarchy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> separate rest rooms for transvestites | | |

POLITICAL ACTUALIZATION *(citizen action)*

Things I do:

- attend meetings
- use persuasion
- give money
- vote regularly
- vandalize Hummers
- participate in boycotts
- watch TV
- tree sit
- encourage discussions
- protest marches/rallies
- write congress
- keep current on issues
- belong to SIGs
- distribute information
- volunteer time or expertise
- argue reasonably
- community service
- try to set an example
- write letters to the editor
- make art about issues
- buy fair trade products
- steal from corporations
- make bumper stickers
- listen to the opposition
- complain, complain . . .
- other _____