

CITIZENSHIP HANDBOOK

The Idea:

The fundamental purpose of this course is to help you engage with the world around you; to understand your role as a citizen of your community, and of the wider world. The first and perhaps most important step on this journey is for you to develop your own political thinking on key questions; questions that are as old as civilization, and yet intrinsic to our daily lives in the modern world.

For this task, you will each reflect on some of these questions, and produce a handbook of ideas that represent your most polished political thinking.

Your Task:

- 1) Four times this term, you will submit a short response on a topic related to our course - see the list below
- 2) I will return it to you with comments - but no mark
- 3) You'll have a chance to improve the work and submit it as a final portfolio near the end of term

Topics:

- Is democracy the best political system?
- What is the individual's responsibility to the country?
- Should the rich pay more in tax than the poor?
- Should we adopt a different electoral system?
- How should our society accommodate minorities?
- Why is Catholic education funded by Ontario? Should that change?
- How should the government ensure "equality"? Does "equality" mean we all get treated the exact same way? Should special consideration apply to some people(s)?
- Has multiculturalism succeeded in Canada?
- Should the government place greater importance on economic growth, or environmental protection?

Each response should be about 1-2 pages in length, double spaced; it should also follow standard English rules of grammar, paragraphing, and punctuation.

In addition to the quality of your writing, you will be evaluated on the extent to which:

- 1) Your response expresses a clear position
- 2) You provide relevant and specific evidence for your position
- 3) You connect your response to our course work (consider consulting relevant sections of your textbook and binder before drafting your response)

Please see attached rubrics – for each individual submission and the whole handbook - for guidance

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE FEEDBACK

Level	Criteria
4	<p>Well-developed, addressing all parts of the topic through clear focus on the central question</p> <p>Directly addressing the topic, showing outstanding grasp of general civic issues raised by the topic</p> <p>Persuasive analysis of the topic, demonstrating thorough understanding of all sides of the question (as appropriate)</p> <p>Numerous specific examples and details demonstrate thorough understanding</p> <p>Extremely well organized, with a clear introduction, argument, and conclusion; great 'flow'</p> <p>Well written in appropriate standard English; few grammatical errors or colloquialisms</p>
3	<p>Most parts of the topic addressed through clear focus on the central question</p> <p>Good grasp of general civic issues raised by the topic</p> <p>Analysis demonstrates understanding of all sides of the question (as appropriate), though may be unevenly developed</p> <p>Several specific examples demonstrate good understanding</p> <p>Well organized, with an introduction, argument, and conclusion</p> <p>Clearly written in appropriate standard English; some minor grammatical errors or colloquialisms</p>
2	<p>Focus reflects some aspect of the topic; more a restatement of than a point about the topic</p> <p>Some grasp of general civic issues raised by the topic, though some significant areas may be omitted</p> <p>Analysis adequate but unevenly developed; some sides of the question omitted</p> <p>Some specific examples demonstrate understanding, but some clearly relevant examples omitted</p> <p>Contains at least two of the following: introduction, argument, and conclusion; organization may be somewhat unclear.</p> <p>Understandable, but contains several grammatical errors or colloquialisms</p>
1	<p>No discernible focus and/or serious misunderstanding of the topic</p> <p>Little grasp of general civic issues raised by the topic</p> <p>Descriptive rather than analytical; marginally related to the topic; significant logical gaps</p> <p>Few and/or erroneous specific examples demonstrate little understanding</p> <p>Poorly organized: no clear introduction, argument, or conclusion</p> <p>Pattern of grammatical errors and/or inappropriate colloquialisms</p>

CITIZENSHIP HANDBOOK EVALUATION

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<p>Knowledge <i>Did you provide numerous specific examples and details to demonstrate thorough understanding of the topic?</i></p>	demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of content	demonstrates some knowledge and understanding of content	demonstrates considerable knowledge and understanding of content	demonstrates thorough knowledge and understanding of content
<p>Thinking <i>Did you show outstanding grasp of general civic issues raised by the topic?</i> <i>Did you provide persuasive analysis of the topic, demonstrating thorough consideration of all sides?</i></p>	uses critical thinking processes with limited effectiveness	uses critical thinking processes with some effectiveness	uses critical thinking processes with considerable effectiveness	uses critical thinking processes with a high degree of effectiveness
<p>Communication <i>Is your response extremely well organized, with a clear introduction, argument, and conclusion?</i></p>	expresses and organizes ideas and information with limited effectiveness	expresses and organizes ideas and information with some effectiveness	expresses and organizes ideas and information with considerable effectiveness	expresses and organizes ideas and information with a high degree of effectiveness
<p>Application <i>Is your response relevant and well-developed, addressing all parts of the topic through clear focus on the central question?</i> <i>Do your submissions reflect thorough consideration and application of the feedback you received on your first draft?</i></p>	applies knowledge and skills in familiar and new contexts with limited effectiveness	applies knowledge and skills in familiar and new contexts with some effectiveness	applies knowledge and skills in familiar and new contexts with considerable effectiveness	applies knowledge and skills in familiar and new contexts with a high degree of effectiveness