



## Responsible Citizenship Problems: Worksheet

Reading the problems below. What do you think a responsible citizen would do after thinking through the following issues?

1. Judy lives next door to Marisa, but she has not liked her for years. Judy doesn't think Marisa does her part to help keep the neighborhood clean. She does not clean up after her dog, litters the streets, and never puts the trash out for the garbage truck on pick-up day. Marisa never participates in the community meetings. She disrupts the peace and quiet of the neighborhood by hosting loud parties and letting her dog bark all through the night. When Marisa does yard work, she leaves garden tools and raked leaves on Judy's property when she is finished.

Do you think Judy would be a responsible citizen if she were to:

Gossip about Marisa to neighbors?

Report her to health authorities?

Leave her trash on Mary's property?

Not speak to her when she sees her outside?

Invite and encourage her to attend community meetings?

Speak to Marisa about her concerns?

Using your selection above, decide which of the statements below most closely represents your views.

A responsible citizen does not need to be concerned with difficult neighbors.

A responsible citizen is someone who treats neighbors with respect even if they aren't liked.

A responsible citizen treats neighbors the same way they want to be treated.

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2. Brian's country and a bordering nation have gone to war. Brian believes that fighting will not solve the difficulties between the countries and disagrees with the reasons for the war. He also knows war will cost many lives and much property.

Do you think Brian is a responsible citizen if he:

Serves in the army because it is his duty?

Does not serve in the army because the war goes against his values and beliefs?

Using your selection above, select one of the statements below:

A responsible citizen serves his country no matter what personal values and beliefs are.

A responsible citizen always stands behind his or her personal values and morals.

3. Mrs. Harris is angry over the town plans to build large hotels in the neighborhood so she is speaking out at the community meeting. She is campaigning to veto this decision. Most other people at the meeting believe the large hotels will raise property values and are in favor of the construction. The group asks Mrs. Harris to sit down and be quiet every time she speaks because she is taking up valuable time. They repeatedly remind her that she will not get her way.

Do you think responsible citizens:

Let others speak even if they don't like what they are hearing?

Give community members the right to protest and disagree with issues?

Should try to get each other to think and live the same way?

Using your selection above, select one of the statements below:

A responsible citizen tolerates differences and listens to all points of views.

By not tolerating differences between people and trying to get everyone to be alike, a responsible citizen tries to protect themselves and others.

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To be a responsible citizen, I must remember:

Discuss with your teacher and classmates.

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