

Chapter 4. The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens

“A citizen is a participatory member of a political community. Citizenship is gained by meeting the legal requirements of a national, state, or local government” ([Center for the Study of Citizenship](#), Wayne State University, 2021, para. 6).



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In the United States, both citizens and non-citizens have rights and responsibilities in their **civic, political, and private lives**. They enjoy the freedoms of a democratic society while having responsibilities that they are expected to perform, including obeying laws, voting in elections, working with elected leaders, engaging in peaceful protests, and affirming the fundamental principles of American political and civic life.

U.S. history has numerous examples of individuals who showed **political courage and leadership** in support of democratic values and freedoms, but it also includes multiple times when individuals and

groups failed to live up to the ideals of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. In modern society, public and private interest groups, political action committees, and labor unions, more than individual citizens, play powerful roles in lobbying for social and economic change.

The media literacy activities in this section explore topics related to citizen engagement and involvement in politics and society, including immigration, the COVID-19 pandemic, voting, gender in leadership, trans identities, political activism, political protest, political advertising, and the January 6, 2021 insurrection.

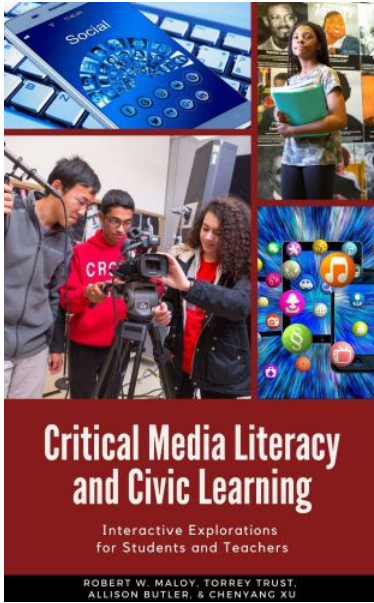
Media Literacy Choice Board

<p>Examine how News Outlets Covered the 2020 Vice Presidential Debate</p> <p>Conduct a critical media literacy analysis of news coverage of the 2020 VP debates.</p> 	<p>Evaluate Representation of Immigrants in the Movies</p> <p>Examine portrayals of immigrants in a series of film clips and share your evaluation in a video.</p> 	<p>Examine the Representation of Women Political Leaders in the Media</p> <p>Research media representations of female politicians and share your findings.</p> 	<p>Analyze Persuasion Techniques in Advocacy Groups' Websites</p> <p>Evaluate how advocacy groups use persuasion techniques on their websites and then design a website of your own.</p> 
<p>Counter False News About COVID-19</p> <p>Create a video or podcast designed to dispel misinformation about COVID-19.</p>  <p>Create a Transgender Character for Movies or TV</p> <p>Write a script for a TV show or movie featuring a transgender main character.</p> 	<p>The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens</p> <p>Media Literacy Choice Board</p>  <p><i>Building Democracy for All</i>, a free eBook by Robert Maloy & Torrey Trust explores all these topics and more</p>		<p>Design Your Own Game</p> <p>Design a game that will influence students' thinking about voting and/or civic engagement.</p>  <p>Remix Lyrics into Your Own Protest Song</p> <p>Remix lyrics from American protest songs to create a protest song of your own.</p> 
<p>Evaluate Social Media Campaigns for an Upcoming Election</p> <p>Critically analyze a political candidate's social media use and share what you learned.</p> 	<p>Evaluate the News From All Sides About Immigration</p> <p>Evaluate news articles about immigration from different perspectives and share your findings.</p> 	<p>Analyze Celebrity Endorsements in the Media</p> <p>Critically analyze a celebrity endorsement for a presidential candidate.</p> 	<p>Advocate for an Issue You Care About on Social Media</p> <p>Use social media to advocate for an issue and evaluate your experience and outcomes.</p> 

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Media Literacy Activities



Maloy, R. W., Trust, T., , & Xu, C. (2021). *Critical Media Literacy and Civic Learning*. Equity Press.
<https://equitypress.org/mediaandciviclearning>