

SOCO 101 – Principles of Sociology

Miramar College – Discussion Post (4.6 DB 2 Government)

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Subject: What does it mean to be a “citizen” in the United States?

Once again guys, the title of “America” does not belong to the United States alone; when did they decided to expropriate it? America belongs to not only the United States, but to all of North America (Canada, & Mexico), as well as all Latin American brothers; Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Cuba, Ecuador, Bolivia, Uruguay, Brazil, Chile, etc., America covers all territory ranging from Utqiagvik, Alaska, all the way south to La Patagonia, Argentina. Don’t forget that.

Personally, I don’t have any faith on the average U.S. citizen to pass the test. Not because of the level of difficulty of the test, or because of some lack of education methods by academic institutions, the questions discussed therein are taught in any public high school in the mandatory history classes. Then why? Because of the impaired memory and attention span that the average U.S. citizen is generating via the chronic addiction of social media. Nothing interests them anymore besides the fashion, the new trends, and the instant dopamine received from wasteful scrolling, from the consumerism derived from it, and from other activities (such as video games, streaming, and entertainment) that wastes their time; who would want to know about the boring U.S. policy and its intricacies even though we live in this country? Don’t you see that they are more focused on what car looks cooler and thereby worth putting themselves into debt for it? Which garment to wear to elevate their social value? Or which video or picture to post to show a false façade in their social media to improve their self-image to the public? That’s the crux of our society, trivial entertainment, not the several social problems surrounding us we experience in a daily basis. There is a **hidden curriculum** of befuddlement upon society via social media, and quite sadly, they are winning; they know that with an educated and cultured populace they would burn to the ground.

Civic education in the Unites States is quite good, in my opinion. Not only are there public academic institutions (like Miramar College for example) that provide us with state-of-the-art education, but topics on civic education are mandatory in K-12 education in this country. Perhaps not all, but it is also hard to cover all the civic education of this country at once. The problem is not the civic education in the unites states, that’s sufficient, the problem is the chronic use of digital methods to teach this civic education. We need to go analog again, to pen, paper, and physical books, everyone has lost the rein of their attention using these digital devices. They even rent us the book digitally now, you don’t own it, you rent it... The process of **political socialization** in the United States is well established in our academic and bureaucratic

institutions via mandatory courses and publicly available pamphlets in government offices, the problem are ourselves that we pay no attention to it.

Absolutely. I believe that if you live in a country regardless of your immigration status you should know the basic constitutional rights of such country, its history, and the way it bureaucratically works, especially if you are to work and live in such country. Doing so allows you to understand how the country works and thereby allows you to flexibly move around it, literally and figuratively. We need to know about our rights to defend ourselves when we protest.

The knowledge that takes to become a “true” citizen is a great example of **cultural capital**. This knowledge is the epitome of a non-financial social asset that promotes social mobility and confer status — quite literally actually. By knowing the basic constitutional mechanisms, history, and geography of this country you are capable of becoming a “true” citizen, thereby acquiring a flexible legal mobility to act freely in this country without the danger of deportation, and your status inevitably elevates as you are capable of acquiring physical assets, participate in academic institutions, and even participate in society by getting a job — cultural capital that humans without “true” citizenship lack and are reprimanded upon.

Open ended question(s):

1. What’s a way to promote this general knowledge to the populace?
2. Is there a way to promote this general knowledge without digital devices? If so, how?