

## Class Citizenship Tree

Grade Level: 2-5

Time: 1 hour

### Objectives:

- Familiarize students with the characteristics of active citizenship.
- Students will identify two or three specific actions he or she can accomplish to practice good citizenship
- Students will verbally contract to accomplish one public work action.

### Curricular Connections: Civics Visual and Language Arts

**Materials:** children's book with a strong message of young people working to change the world (or other way of introducing the idea of public work ), classroom bulletin board with colored paper backing, green poster-board and colored construction paper, magazines, glue, tape, tacks, markers or crayons, other art materials, and newspaper stories of service to others.

### Procedures:

- 1) On the chalkboard, write the words "citizenship" and "public work." Define each term with the class. Ask students to recall instances when they have been an active citizen.
- 2) Read a children's book that includes a strong message of young people working to change the world. Discuss how the main characters in the story demonstrated active citizenship behaviors.
- 3) Explain to students that they will make a Class Citizenship Tree. Two students draw and cut out a large tree shape using green poster board. Staple this to the classroom bulletin board that has been labeled with the header, "Our Class Citizenship Tree".
- 4) Write the sentence "We can make the community better by \_\_\_\_\_" on the chalkboard. Students describe, illustrate, or write a completion to the sentence stem.
- 5) Review the class list of core concepts and good citizenship characteristics. Each student will select one action that he or she will agree to complete during the following week.
- 6) As students complete acts of good citizenship they create a leaf using folded construction paper. Each student will write about, draw, or paste pictures cut out of magazines to illustrate the action he or she has taken. Label each leaf with the student's name and staple it onto the Class Citizenship Tree.

### Reflection:

- Groups will periodically discuss the results of their actions.
- Students to respond to the terms citizenship and public work in their journals using articles from local newspapers to illustrate how people help each other for the benefit of the entire community.

**Assessment:**

1. Discussion to gauge understanding of citizenship.
2. List of ways to help the community.

**Source:** Adapted from Brian F. Geiger Educator's Reference Desk Lesson #: AELP-CIV0014