



# MyImpact Challenge

A Citizenship Project of the Bill of Rights Institute

## What is the MyImpact Challenge curriculum?

### Guiding Question:

***“In order to be citizens in a free society, functioning as productive individuals in our public lives and demonstrating American civic virtues in solving problems in our own communities, what do we need to know?”***

#### Curriculum Outline

Each lesson includes a comprehensive background essay and activities that foster in-depth exploration.

*Unit 1:* What is Citizenship?

*Unit 2:* Charity and Citizenship

*Unit 3:* Entrepreneurship and Citizenship

*Unit 4:* Government and Citizenship

*Unit 5:* Active Citizenship: The MyImpact Challenge (Project-Based Learning Unit)

### Lesson 1, Defining Citizenship (Example)

#### Overview

The Founders understood that, in order to preserve their liberty and happiness and that of future generations, the foundation of successful self-government was citizens who understood and applied certain virtues. They constructed the U.S. Constitution according to their study of the principles and virtues that were most necessary to sustain a free, prosperous, and orderly society. Students will explore different definitions of citizenship and analyze the relationships between and among civic skills, virtues, and principles.

#### Objectives

- Students will work in small groups to identify the characteristics of a good citizen, and then apply that understanding to their roles as participants in their various communities and circles of influence.
- Students will compare the meanings of citizenship through history.
- Students will analyze the role of principles and virtues in civil society.
- Students will understand relationships between and among virtues and constitutional principles.
- Students will analyze and evaluate a portion of Benjamin Franklin’s autobiography dealing with his efforts to cultivate more virtue in his own life.
- Students will engage in civil discourse, demonstrating reasoned judgment while considering varied opinions.

#### Relevant primary source quote

“Neither the wisest constitution nor the wisest laws will secure the liberty and happiness of a people whose manners are universally corrupt. He therefore is the truest friend of the liberty of his country who tries most to promote its virtue.” Samuel Adams, *Essay in The Public Advertiser*, 1749

#### Recommended time

4 Activities; total of 180 minutes

## Interested?

The Bill of Rights Institute is inviting select schools and student groups to participate in the 2017-2018 pilot. You can sign up for more information by going to

**[billofrightsinstitute.org/myimpactchallenge](http://billofrightsinstitute.org/myimpactchallenge)**