

# Non-citizens

What if you aren't a citizen yet? When I heard about this essay competition, that was the first thing I thought about. I've lived in the United States for more than eight years now, and soon my family and I will become citizens. But many people have a long way to go before becoming citizens, so what about those people? We surely cannot forget about them. My essay will consist of why The Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration are also important for non-citizens.

First, let's discuss civics. Civics means the study or science of the obligations and privileges of citizens. Civics is important to non-citizens because the main reason they want to become citizens is so they can have rights. Before they get those rights, they have to understand them, and that's where civics comes in. Ways you could practice civics are: you could take a civics class or ask a citizen about the rights you'll obtain. What civics means to me as a non-citizen student is that participating in civics helps me not just understand my soon-to-be rights but truly be able to live my life better. Before I took part in civics, I didn't care to know or understand any of the rights I would have. I just ignored them. That's why the First Cornerstone of Democracy: Civics, is important to non-citizens.

Next, let's talk about civility. Civility means talking with politeness, speaking in an appropriate tone, and respecting people's decisions even if you disagree with them. Civility isn't just important for citizens and non-citizens; it's important for everyone. Civility is important because respect has a big effect on our lives, and if you speak with civility, many people will like you and treat you the same way. Civility is important for non-citizens because when you undergo interviews for becoming a citizen, you have to speak with civility so they get a better impression of you. To practice civility, you have to train yourself to think before you speak and say what is most respectful. When I speak with civility, I find that I'm better respected and liked because of the way I speak. That's why the Second Cornerstone of Democracy: Civility, is important to non-citizens.

And lastly, collaboration means working together to create something. Collaboration is important because everything is better with it. The world revolves around collaboration. Every time you work with someone, that's an example of collaboration. Collaboration is important for non-citizens because when you collaborate with someone, you learn more, and that's what you need when you're

in the process of getting citizenship. Some ways you could collaborate with someone are by being active in your community and working with someone to make the world a better place. When I use collaboration, I do better on things because of the teamwork involved. That's why the Third Cornerstone of Democracy: Collaboration, is important to non-citizens.

That's why the Three Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration are important to non-citizens.