

# Civics... Citizens and Citizenship

What's the difference?

Understanding the difference between civics, citizens and citizenship helps everyone work together to uphold the important values and beliefs which support Australia's democratic society.



**CIVICS** Understanding the processes of how rules and laws are made and upheld in society, to benefit all citizens.

**CITIZENS** The people who are part of a community or society.

**CITIZENSHIP** Active participation in civic matters which show the attitudes, values, and beliefs citizens hold within a society. Citizenship reflects how people are willing to live under the rules and laws that have been created to maintain a safe and respectful society.



In a democratic society, citizens can investigate issues and ask questions so they can make informed decisions about their lives. An informed citizen then shares their opinions and listens to alternative viewpoints. Accepting different perspectives helps citizens gain a better understanding about what is happening in their community, and why.

*Here are some things you can do to be a great citizen:*

1. Be honest and trustworthy
2. Follow rules and laws
3. Respect the rights and property of others
4. Take responsibility for your actions
5. Stay informed about the world around you
6. Protect the environment

**Create a poster for your community reminding everyone how they can be a good citizen. Remember to include words such as:**

**RESPECT**  
**INFORMED**  
**RESPONSIBILITY**  
**HONESTY**