

Rights and Responsibilities

SOCIAL STUDIES / CIVICS



Overview

Students illustrate the connection between rights and responsibilities, showing how citizenship involves both privileges and duties.

Steps for Teachers

1. Discuss rights (things we're entitled to) and responsibilities (things we must do)
2. Students select a right to focus on (free speech, education, voting, etc.)
3. Students identify the corresponding responsibility
4. Students write scenarios showing the right being exercised responsibly
5. Students also show what happens when responsibility is ignored
6. Students create their presentation in Puppet Pals
7. Discuss the balance between rights and responsibilities

Example

A student presents freedom of speech. Character 1: 'I have the right to share my opinions!' Shows responsible use: expressing disagreement respectfully, writing to representatives, peaceful protest. Then shows irresponsible use: spreading lies, bullying with words. Narrator: 'With the right to speak freely comes the responsibility to speak truthfully and kindly. Our rights work best when everyone uses them responsibly.'

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Concept Understanding	Clearly explains both the right and corresponding responsibility	Shows understanding of rights and responsibilities	Confuses rights with responsibilities
Balanced Examples	Shows both responsible and irresponsible use effectively	Includes examples of both	Only shows one side
Real-World Application	Uses relatable, age-appropriate scenarios	Examples connect to real life	Abstract or unrealistic examples
Civic Message	Conveys importance of responsible citizenship	Mentions civic responsibility	Missing civic connection