



# I AM A CITIZEN

I own my own stuff.  
I pick up what I lay down.



## Goals

To learn and understand what it means to be responsible for your actions and reactions.  
To be able to define a consequence.

## Tools

- \*Check-In Spinners
- \*Consequence Handout



## Chalkboard

Check-in: How are you feeling? (5-10-minute exercise)

Citizenship means respecting other people and their stuff.

Respecting your school and everything in it.

Following the rules.

Telling the truth, be a good listener.

Be kind.

Find some way to give back to your community (help your teacher, keep your classroom clean)

**MISSION:  
POSSIBLE!**



## Guided Instruction:

In our country, being a citizen means legally belonging to a country and having the protection and rights of that country. As US citizens, we live under the rights and protection of our government. The good news is that we have protection against outsiders who would seek to harm our families or us; we have the rights to be educated and eat healthily and grow up to have great opportunities like a good job and a nice place to live. We must work hard but have the same opportunities as every American citizen. People don't always like that they can't do anything they want, especially if it involves breaking the law.

*Example: I can't just jump in my car and drive down a one-way street going the wrong direction or speed through a stop light. We have laws in this country that were created to protect us so everyone can live together without fear and disruption.*

When we break laws here, there are things called consequences that will always result. Consequences happen with every action that we take, whether good or bad.

For every action, there is a REaction. If someone is speeding in their car down the street, sees a stop sign and an old lady walking across the road with a cane, and decides at the last minute to slam on the brakes, there will be consequences for that action. When their foot slams on the brake pad, there will be a REaction.

What are some possible REactions that could occur?

Invite student participation, but here are some possibilities: Brakes screech, possibly hit the woman, crash into the back of another car, run off the road and maybe hit a house or tree or another person, may be seen by a police officer or may be reported by someone looking, could get a ticket, lose their license, be put in jail for hurting someone.



## What's the point?

Consequences are the results of every action we take. Sometimes it starts with a thought that turns into an action.

An action is the same as when we do something, bring something, or put something down on the table. It can be a choice or an attitude or behavior we decide to show. When we act, we must be ready to accept the consequences of that act.

Can you think of something that started as a small idea in your mind and then turned into an action? Can you think of a good one and a bad one? What were the consequences? In other words, what happened?

Good consequences come from good citizenship. Citizenship has to do with our actions and our reactions.

Watch Audio Book "What If Everybody Did That?" by Ellen Javernick  
<https://youtu.be/S-NeKqrBckU>

### Activity One: Consequence Handout

Citizenship at school looks like this:

Cleaning up after myself during lunch. Following the rules of my teacher. Not breaking or writing on school property like chairs and walls.

Good Citizenship is like preparing for a fun field trip or to the beach. You will have to make sure you dress for the beach or a field trip. You have to make sure your parent or guardian has signed your permission slip. If you don't, you will not be able to go on the trip, and if you don't dress for the beach, you won't have as much fun as you may want. When you are a good citizen, you prepare for the benefits of doing your job in school and at home. So now you can expect to be rewarded for your good actions! Be ready to accept the consequences of everything you do and say...even when you don't do anything, you are still making a choice, so be ready to pick up what you lay down!!