

**CIVIC ISSUES:  
LIVING AND ACTING IN A CIVIL SOCIETY**  
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**OBJECTIVES:**

Students will define and explain the importance of individual and civic responsibilities.

They will also explain the importance of responsible participation by citizens in voluntary civil associations, non-governmental organizations, and any non-profit association or organization that help constitute what we call civil society.

This contribution will take the form of a workshop in which the participants will raise some civic issues and together will use problem solving skills to provide practical solutions to some of the civic problems our society is suffering from.

**ACTIVITY:**

**A. Pre-activity discussion:**

- 1- Explain that we face several types of responsibilities everyday; individual and civic responsibilities
- 2- Ask students to give some examples of individual responsibilities.
- 3- Make a list on the BB as students give examples.
- 4- Explain that civic responsibilities focus more on citizens' relationship to the government, and ask students to name several examples of civic responsibilities.
- 5- Make another list on the board with the civil responsibilities that the students suggest and guide them to compare the two lists.
- 6- Emphasize the importance of a citizen's role in monitoring the government and involvement in civic affairs.

## B – Living responsibility

1-Explain that there are several volunteer groups that actively participate in civil society ask student to name all such organizations that they know.

E.g. AMDH (Association Marocaine des Droits de l'Homme), Insaf, Idmaaj, Bayti, etc.

2- Discuss some well - known associations' activities, explain that such associations are comprised of volunteers who advocate against some issues.

3 – Invite students to watch some Youtube video clips about some of Bayti and Idmaaj associations' activities titled "Casablanca kids" and "Women's Rights", respectively as examples of effective participation in civil society.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KtTMOafSCaY>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGLYNBE3PU0>

4 - Tell students that these members of the association educate the public on the dangers of some issues through several different media such as television, meetings and brochures.

5- Tell the students that some members of these associations attend some court cases to remind the judge that the public is concerned about some cases.

## C - ACTING RESPONSIBILITY:

1. Ask students to brain storm some civil issues that they would advocate for or against

2. Have students make a list of the suggested issue.

3. Divide the class into small groups.

4. Tell students that each group should choose an issue from the list and advocate for or against their chosen issue.

5. Tell the students that each group will act as a civic organization or association to advocate for or against their chosen issue.

6. Tell students that they will deliver a small presentation to the class.

7. Explain that they must include the following elements in their presentation:

- a- Name of their association.
- b- The issue they chose.
- c- The importance of that issue.
- d- How they will educate the public.
- e- How they will monitor the government.
- f – Why civic organizations and associations in general are important in a democratic society.
- g- Encourage students to be creative and allow them time to work on them.
  
- h- Have students deliver their presentations, guide a class discussion for each one.

## Conclusion:

After the students have completed their projects ask them:

- 1- What civic issues are currently receiving the most public attention?
- 2- How do these issues relate to our individual responsibilities?
- 3- How would our government function without civic groups?