

Identifying and Defining Civic Virtues



Below are several civic virtues, along with definitions.

Contribution: To discover your passions and talents, and use them to create what is beautiful and needed. To work hard to take care of yourself and those who depend on you.

Courage: To stand firm in being a person of character and doing what is right, especially when it is unpopular or puts you at risk.

Humility: To remember that your ignorance is far greater than your knowledge. To give praise to those who earn it.

Integrity: To tell the truth, expose untruths, and keep your promises.

Justice: To stand for equally applied rules that respect the rights and dignity of all, and make sure everyone obeys them.

Perseverance: To remember how many before you chose the easy path rather than the right one, and to stay the course.

Respect: To protect your mind and body as precious aspects of your identity. To extend that protection to every other person you encounter.

Responsibility: To strive to know and do what is best, not what is most popular. To be trustworthy for making decisions in the best long-term interests of the people and tasks of which they are in charge.

Self-Governance: To be self-controlled, avoiding extremes, and to not be excessively influenced or controlled by others.

In the table below, write down the virtues your teacher assigns to your group. For each, identify a person or character in history, literature, or current events who exemplified that virtue. Include an explanation.

Civic Virtue	Person/Character	Why, or How?