

National History Day 2025: *Rights and Responsibilities in History*



Every year, NHD has an annual theme that all projects must clearly relate to in the topic choice and the argument. Today we will look at the 2025 annual theme and discuss the different ways it can be viewed. This will help you as you select a topic and begin your research.

Quick Question - What do you think *rights and responsibilities* means, based on your current understanding?



Directions

Defining Rights and Responsibilities



There are many different types of rights and responsibilities and they often overlap. On your note page, write down the definition each right or responsibility.

You **only** need to write down what is in the boxes at the top of each slide; anything else is there to clarify what is within the definition or ask a question. Refer to it as needed.

Rights



Freedoms or privileges that individuals possess as human beings or as citizens of a society.



Civil Rights

Non political rights of individuals that their governments have to protect. This includes: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, freedom of petition, and freedom of the press.



Freedom of speech: the right to speak freely (within reason)

Freedom of religion: the right to worship the religion of one's own choice (or decline to worship)

Freedom of assembly: the right to assemble in a group of one's choosing

Freedom of petition: the right to ask the government to make a change

Freedom of the press: the right to report on events and express opinions on the events of the day



Political Rights

The rights of citizens to participate in their government. This includes the right to vote and run for public office.



Political rights ensure that citizens have a say in how they are governed.

Social Rights

The rights that establish a basic standard of living and well-being for all members of a society. This includes right to an education, safe housing, or access to social services such as health care, access to food, and care for the children and elderly.

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Economic Rights

The rights that allow people to participate in their economy. These can include the right to own property, work, and earn fair wages.

This can also include the right to pursue a career of one's choosing, start a business, or have fair and safe working conditions.



Responsibilities



Expectations of individuals as members of society. These include laws, social norms, or ethical principles designed to promote the wellbeing of society as a whole.

Legal Responsibilities

The duty to maintain order and justice within a society. They include obeying the law, paying taxes, and respecting the rights of others.



By following the laws, societies can function, and the rights of others are protected.

Civic Responsibilities

The obligation to participate in the functioning of a government. They can include voting, staying informed about political issues, and engaging in community activities.



Access to civil responsibilities is important to remember! Would this fall under any of the rights we have defined?



Social Responsibilities

The commitment to treat others respectfully and kindly and to help those in need. Examples include volunteering in the community or establishing organizations that support others.



Context is important when thinking about social responsibilities. What is expected or accepted in that current time and social context?

Ethical Responsibilities

The charge to make morally sound choices and decisions – even when driven by personal values and principles rather than being demanded by law – making decisions between right and wrong.



A moral is a person's standards of behavior or beliefs concerning what is and is not acceptable for them to do.



Some questions to keep in mind as you work...

- Who decides who has rights?
- Does everyone have the same rights?
- Who decides on the limits individuals should or should not have? Why?
- What led to establishing certain rights, and to whom were they given?
- How have people, governments, or institutions decided what parameters should be set to enforce responsibilities?
- How are such decisions justified?



Next up...

- Insert directions for group activity here. Pull language from the procedure page as needed.



Antidiscrimination Act of 1945



Unangax^ Evacuation during
World War 2



Alaska National Interest Lands
Conservation Act (ANILCA) - 1980



Alaska Constitutional Convention -
1955-1956



Shoup Women Suffrage Bill - 1913

