

## U.S. Citizenship Test: Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Do you have examples of the sentences that the test taker will need to read out loud and also those that will be read out loud to him/her that he/she will then need to write down?*

The interviewer will ask the test taker to read one or two sentences (only one if he/she does it well). Then he/she will be asked to write a sentence that the interviewer dictates. The interviewer uses certain sentences based on the reading and writing word lists on the official *U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services* website. These word lists and sample sentences are also available through the WLC office by request. Work with your learner to practice reading and writing these words and sentences in multiple ways. The sentences for the reading portion of the test are all questions so you can present exercises for your learner to practice reading a question and then writing the answer.

2. *What happens if a test taker does not pass the test?*

You have two opportunities to take the English and civics tests per application. If you fail any portion of the test during your first interview, you will be retested on the portion of the test that you failed between 60 and 90 days from the date of your initial interview.

3. *What activities can I use with my learner?*

Reading:

- Flashcards vocabulary words/sentences to practice reading
- Scrambled sentences – cut apart the words from a sentence and have the learner put them in the correct order

Writing:

- Sentence dictation: read a sentence out loud and have the learner write it down

Homework:

- Have learners practice 5 words or sentences at home (depending on their level). They can review their flashcards or scrambled sentences or have a family member dictate the sentences to them so they can practice writing.

4. *What materials and resources are available for me to use with my learner?*

**Citizenship Passing the Test** is a three book series by Lynne Weintraub. It is available through Whatcom Literacy Council library or Whatcom County Library System. It includes *Ready for the Interview*, *Civics and Literacy* and *Literacy Skills*.

**Handouts available by request:**

- Word lists for reading and writing test
- Sample sentences for reading and writing test
- USCIS handout that explains the scoring process

**U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Website**

The USCIS website includes information about applying and studying for U.S. Citizenship. It includes necessary forms and a Citizenship Resource Center with study materials such as the 100 questions, word lists and even videos that help learners understand the naturalization process.

*The USCIS Naturalization Interview and Test Video:* The USCIS Naturalization Interview and Test is a 16-minute video that provides an overview of the naturalization process and testing requirements. This video highlights scenes from the naturalization interview, including the English and U.S. history and government (civics) portions of the naturalization test. These simulated situations provide a closer look into the overall process. Includes examples of reading and writing sentences on test.

<http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learners/study-test/study-materials-civics-test/uscis-naturalization-interview-and-test-video>

**Online Courses for Citizenship Tutors**

ProLiteracy Education Network offers three online courses that can be very helpful for tutors who are working with learners who have U.S. Citizenship as their goal. To access the following courses go to [www.proliteracyednet.org](http://www.proliteracyednet.org) and click on the *Instructors* tab and then *Online Courses*, then click on *Citizenship* to choose a course.

- *Citizenship: The Civics Test*
- *Citizenship: The Interview*
- *Citizenship: The Literacy Test*