



Being an American Citizen

Created September 2021

Description: What is it like living in the US, American exceptionalism, and responsibilities of being a US citizen.

Originally part of a four-part Series which included: Illegal Immigration, Living in a Multi-Cultural America, and The Immigration Process. They can be stand-alone conversations or re-connected in a Series if you choose.

Estimated time: 1.5 hours

(1) Getting acquainted and comfortable

5 - 10 min.

Welcome

- Thank you for coming...
- We are a part of The Great Reset, which was born out of a shift we're seeing in our country. We have been in a place where we don't tend to speak 'beyond our bubbles' and across perspectives. The Great Reset has been opening up a grey space for such conversations since 2018. You are now part of keeping the conversation going and we thank you.

The Pillars of The Great Reset

- To share our own thoughts and perspectives with humility
- To learn from others and listen with respect

Ground Rules

- Every comment is valid and deserving of respect
- We show respect by speaking one at a time, putting our phones on silent and staying engaged, even when we are not speaking
- In the interest of time, I may cut in to ask you to 'top-line' something if we need to move on. This means simply offer up a synopsis of your thoughts and speak in bullets, not paragraphs

Confidentiality

I would like a verbal from everyone that you are here of your own volition and out of respect for one another I would ask you to keep what others say in this room unless they give you permission otherwise. (go around and get verbal agreement). Further, you agree to adhere to the principles outlined already: to deliver your perspectives bound to the principles of respect, to **listen with humility and offer grace to others who are sharing this space.**

Personal Introductions

Please share your name, where you live, and do you know anyone personally who has significantly suffered or died from COVID?

*****Remind everyone we're recording but we won't use any clips without their approval*****



(2) Living in the US

25 - 30 min.

- Suppose you're traveling in another continent and someone asks you "so what is like living in the US." What would be your short answer, one-sentence reply?
- Now what would be your longer, more descriptive reply to that same question "so what is it like living in the US?"
- What is there, if anything, that is truly unique about living in the US that's very different from almost anywhere else in the world?
- If there is such a thing as "American exceptionalism," what are some examples?

(3) American citizenship responsibilities

25 - 30 min.

- What are your responsibilities or obligations as an American citizen? Probe for community participation, voting, obeying the laws, community service, volunteering, etc.
- Should passing a Civics exam be required to graduate from high school, and why or why not?
- Many school districts have a community service hours requirement to graduate from high school. How do you feel about this?
- Should public service, either in the military or some other community service, be required for all Americans after they graduate from high school or turn a certain age, and why or why not?
- How would you describe a person who is regarded as a good American citizen? Probe for community participation, level of being informed, etc.
- If someone doesn't do those things that make someone a good American citizen, are they then a bad citizen, and why or why not?

(4) Closing comments

5 - 10 min.

- Any additional comments about what it means to be an American citizen?