Chapter 14
Citizenship in School

Section 1: The U.S. School System
Section 2: The Best Education for You
Section 3: Developing Your Life Skills
Section 1: The U.S. School System

I Can Statement
I can discuss the American educational system and how I can make the most of it.

Reading Focus
◆ Why is education important?
◆ What are the levels of the U.S. school system?
◆ What American values can be found in education, and what challenges face schools today?
Americans Value Education

- A society prospers when its citizens are educated
- “Knowledge is power” – Sir Francis Bacon
- Education helps individual citizens grow intellectually and spiritually
- Educational is key to building a strong country
Americans value education:

- Important for citizens’ development—learning develops the talents of the individual; equal access to education creates opportunity to succeed
- Important for the country’s development—future depends on Americans working for the common good; education teaches citizens to contribute to society
Section 1: The U.S. School System

The beginning of the U.S. school system:

- 1647—law passed that required almost all towns in Massachusetts to set up public schools.
- Thomas Jefferson believed educated citizens were essential to democracy.
- 1800s—Horace Mann worked to establish public schools for all children.
- 1860s—The struggle for public, tax-supported schools gained ground.
- High schools began to appear after the Civil War.
Levels of the U.S. school system:

- Preschool – children learn everything from the letters of the alphabet to cooperating with teachers and each other.
- Kindergarten – prepares children for first grade by teaching them basic academic skills
- Elementary school – generally first through 5th or 6th grade
Middle schools – generally grades 4 to 8

Junior high school – generally 7th through 9th grades

High School – nationwide, about 10% of people do not finish high school by age 24

Higher education – many jobs require college and/or university training; well-educated citizens often earn higher incomes
3 Kinds of American High Schools

- **Academic** – prepares students for college
- **Technical/Vocational** – helps students learn a specific trade or profession
- **Comprehensive** – offers both educational options
- Schools that help students develop to their fullest potential in mind, body, and spirit have an enriching environment.
Higher Education

- There are two basic options for higher education – community college or university
- A university is a partnership of multiple colleges
Seven major values of American education

- Free public education – all children should have access to a quality education no matter their parent(s) ability to pay for it

- Equal schooling – open to all – schools cannot discriminate against any student because of race, gender, religion, physical disability, or financial status
Free education for any creed or religion – public schools cannot discriminate against a student because of ethnic or religious background.

Local control – local communities operate their own public schools

Compulsory attendance – each state sets its own attendance requirements but all states require school attendance.
Enriching environment – we expect our schools to help students develop to their fullest potential – in mind, body, and spirit

Inclusive environment – equal educational opportunities for all students regardless of any special educational needs.
The Handicapped Children’s Act (1975)

- Requires that students with special needs be treated like everyone else and be taught in the regular classroom whenever possible.
Challenges facing education today:

- Paying for public schools
- Hiring and keeping good teachers
- Educational reform
- Student performance
- Violence in schools
Question: What values guide education in the United States today?
Section 2: The Best Education for You

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I can discuss the American educational system and how I can make the most of it.

Reading Focus
◆ How can being prepared for school help you be successful in school?
◆ What are the seven goals of education?
◆ How can extracurricular activities help you be successful in school?
“Know Your Textbook” tips

- Use the study guides that are provided with your book
- Look over each chapter before you read it
- Read the assigned text carefully – paying attention to topic sentences
- Re-read the chapter, but this time take notes on the important facts and ideas in the text
- Answer the questions at the end of each section in a chapter as soon as you finish reading it.
Test-Taking Tips

◆ Look over the entire test before you begin

◆ Find out how many questions there are and how long you have to answer each

◆ Leave enough time, if possible, to review your answers before submitting the exam

◆ Take your time and read each question carefully
If a question is too difficult, leave it and go on to the next but make sure you go back and answer anything you have skipped.

Re-read written answers and math solutions to look for mistakes.

Check to see that you have answered all the questions.
Seven goals of education:

- Using basic learning skills
- Learning to work with others
- Health education
- Training for your life’s work
- Active citizenship
- Considerate behavior
- Wise use of leisure time
Preparing for class work and tests:

- Budget your time for studying and for tests.
- Select a regular study place with space, light, and silence.
- Take notes while reading.
- Understand your assignment.
- Get the most from your textbooks.
- Come prepared to participate in class.
- Review notes and find study partners for tests.
Extra-curricular Activities

- Extra-curricular activities are the groups, teams, and events that your school sponsors outside the classroom.

- The purpose of extra-curricular activities is to help you get a well-rounded education.
Benefits of extracurricular activities

- Allow you to work with others toward a goal
- Develop individual abilities and interests
- Encourage self-expression
- May help with college admissions and scholarships
- Create opportunities to make new friends
Question: How can a person best prepare for class work and tests?

- Select a quiet place to study.
- Take notes while you read.
- Make effective use of your textbook.
- Keep materials you need close at hand.
Section 3: Developing Your Life Skills

I Can Statement

I can discuss the American Educational system and how I can make the most of it.

Reading Focus

◆ How are learning and experience related?
◆ What are the steps involved in critical thinking?
◆ Why should you learn to think for yourself?
Learning and Experience

- Learning is gaining knowledge or skill through study or experience
- Experience is the observation of or participation in events
- The simplest form of learning is the experiences of your senses and muscles
Learning and experience are related:

- All learning is a result of direct observation or participation in events.
- **Conditioning** involves motor responses and behavior resulting from an experience.
- Copying others, looking, listening, and role-playing are types of learning.
- Thinking involves awareness, interpretation, and understanding of experiences.
A habit is an action that we do automatically without thinking about it.

We form habits by repeating an action over and over again.

Conditioning is a form of learning through experience.

Experience is the basis of learning through conditioning.
The ability to learn ultimately depends on motivation.

Motivation is the internal drive to achieve your goals.

Insight is thinking that seems to come from your heart more than from your mind.

Creativity is the ability to find new ways to think and do things.
Critical Thinking

- Critical thinking is the thinking we do to reach decisions and solve problems.
Section 3: Developing Your Life Skills

Steps in thinking critically:

- Define the issue
- Distinguish fact from opinion
- Weigh the evidence
- Reach a conclusion
Section 3: Developing Your Life Skills

Peoples’ thinking is influenced by

- families, teachers, and friends.
- celebrities, mass media, and propaganda.
- social and work groups.
- Prejudice is a opinion not based on facts.
Section 3: Developing Your Life Skills

People must think for themselves

◆ to be objective and free of bias.
◆ to vote wisely, understand current affairs, and solve problems.
◆ to allow our system of government to work.
Question: Why is it important to think for oneself, and what are the advantages and disadvantages of making certain choices?

**Situation:** witness to stealing of a test

**Choice A**

**Choice B**

**Choice C**

**Advantages**

**Disadvantages**
Chapter 14 Wrap-Up

1. What are the two main reasons Americans value education?
2. Where did public schooling begin in the United States, and when did it become widespread?
3. What approaches to learning and studying will make you more successful in school?
4. How can extracurricular activities enhance your education?
5. What must a student do to develop and exercise critical thinking skills?
6. What are the benefits of thinking through problems and issues for yourself?