

According to [cnn.com](http://cnn.com), over a million people gained their citizenship in America last year, but do we the American born citizens truly understand the magnitude of citizenship? Citizenship is an aspect of American life that should be greatly praised and appreciated, but thousands of citizens take their rights and freedoms for granted. High School students should have more government education because young Americans should understand and appreciate the system of government they are lucky to live under, and high school students are the future of America; therefore, we must have the opportunity to form opinions and learn how to act as a model citizen before reaching adulthood.

High Schools should absolutely have more government education because young Americans should fully understand the wonderful democracy that provides us with freedoms unseen in other countries. It is truly depressing how thousands of American citizens overlook their government when millions of people across the globe live in fear of theirs. Government education should be more prominent in high schools because I can say from personal experience that government education always come second to more intense academic courses, such as advanced placement biology or advanced honors pre-calculus. At Maryville High School, the government course I am currently enrolled in is only forty-five days. In comparison, my advanced honors pre-calculus course has ninety to cover the material that must be presented, and this reigns true for nearly all academics in comparison to government. In fact, most electives are given more time than government courses. Although all academics are important in the life of a student, it can be easily said that government influences the life of Americans every day. It infiltrates the lives of Americans through their jobs, school systems, and media, so does it really appear rational to only allow half the amount of time provided in other academic courses? Government courses should be provided with more time to educate their students along the lines

of a stricter curriculum that not only covers American government but American history and other countries' governments, so students can learn to value the country in which we live. Millions of people enter this country yearly in hopes of gaining the very rights and freedoms that we take for granted every day. To reinforce government education, all high school government students should be forced to take the same citizenship test that immigrants must take when they apply for citizenship. We may have been born in America but that does not mean that we deserve freedom more than anyone else.

“We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.” But do “we the people” really understand our position as a United States citizen? Thousands of Americans, thanks to improper education and lack of interest, fail to understand their stance or obligations as a citizen of America. High school students need more government education because we are the future of America, and we must learn the role of a citizen before we enter adulthood. Education is a must if America expects our generation to become a population of young, determined voters. Without proper education we cannot make truthful or personal decisions about political parties or political candidates. According to [cnn.com](http://cnn.com) 125,225,901 people voted in the 2008 presidential election, which is not even half the population of America. If America expects the American public to take an interest in politics, then they have to acknowledge our lack of government education. It is vital to the future of America to get children and adolescents interested with politics while they are young, because it will raise a generation of model citizens. We must have education that

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teaches us to vote and be a part of our government because it will be beneficial for the lives of all Americans.

Government is the foundation of our freedoms and lives. Government education must assume a more prominent role in American school systems because it will benefit the lives of Americans and consolidate us into a more perfect union. With the help of a stronger government education system, students would learn how to form political opinions and become model citizens. As stated by John F. Kennedy, "And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."