

# Library and Adult Education Citizenship Activities

Here are a few of the many possible library citizenship-related activities:

## Welcoming and Encouragement Activities

Activity Name	Stand-Alone or Joint	Description
Featured Individual Cultural Displays	Either	Work with the adult education program or work alone to create a display showcasing one of the cultures of your immigrant patrons. An example might be a “Hmong Display.”
Featured Regional Cultural Displays	Either	Work with the adult education program or work alone to create a display showcasing one of the regions of your immigrant patrons. An example might be “The Cultures of Southeast Asia.”
Library Tours	Either	Provide tours of the library either in English or in the languages spoken by your immigrant patrons.
Library Presentations	Either	Go to an ESL or citizenship class, talk to students about the library, and invite them to visit. If possible, tell them to ask for a specific person or persons, so when they arrive, they can be greeted and not feel lost in the crowd.
“Before and After” Picture Showcase	Joint	In collaboration with the adult education program, display one photo showing an immigrant in his or her native country and one photo of the same person in the United States. Label the photos with the country of origin and display them in a showcase. Place a world map or globe nearby showing the location of the person’s native country and current hometown in the United States.
Welcome Letters	Stand Alone	Write a welcome letter to your immigrant patrons in various target languages and post it in your citizenship corner. You can also encourage American citizens to write welcome letters. Place them in a binder in the citizenship corner, or on a bulletin board for patrons to read.
Naturalization Ceremony Pictures	Either	For those patrons whose goal it is to become a United States citizen, seeing actual photos of a naturalization ceremony can be inspirational. If you do not have access to photos, ask your local citizenship program or contact your Community Relations Officer.
Naturalization Pass-Rate Sign: You Can Do It!	Stand Alone	By letting immigrants know that the pass rate is 91%, it gives them a sense of encouragement. Place this information on a sign in various languages in the citizenship corner.

## Community-Outreach Activities

Activity Name	Stand-Alone or Joint	Description
Immigrant Story Display	Joint	In collaboration with the adult education program, have the immigrants write stories about why and how they came to the United States. Display them for all patrons to read.
Path to America Story	Joint	In collaboration with the adult education program, have students, teachers, and librarians write (in simple English) the story of why and how they, their families, or ancestors came to the United States.
International Fairs	Either	If you have the space (you will need a large room), hold an international fair in collaboration with the adult education program to showcase your immigrant patrons' cultures, art, food, etc.
"Dear Fellow American" Letter-Sharing Display	Joint	In collaboration with the adult education program, ask teachers and librarians to write letters to the immigrant patrons explaining something they want immigrants to know about life in the United States. Have students write letters about something they want Americans to know about their native country or about their first impressions of the United States. Some sample topics are "My first day in the United States" or "What surprised me most about America."
Collections Highlighting Cultural Understanding	Either	For more advanced English speakers, have teachers and librarians recommend easy-to-read literature that highlights some aspect of American culture, history, etc. These could include childrens' books, articles, or fiction. Showcase books written by immigrants or magazines such as National Geographic (even old editions), highlighting various immigrant cultures.
Community Pot-Luck	Either	Host a pot-luck dinner with the entire community and/or the adult education program and library staff.
Community Services Meet and Greet	Joint	Invite immigrant students, patrons, adult education staff, librarians, and representatives from community services (fire fighters, police officers, local politicians, social workers, PTA members, etc.) to a meet and greet.
"Where I Come From" Map Activity	Either	Display a large world map and ask immigrant patrons to place a dot or a pin on their hometown in their native country.
Community Cultural Event Displays	Stand-Alone	Have a booth or table at a community cultural event to advertise the resources you have to serve immigrants.
Citizenship Ceremonies	Either	If you have the space, work with your Community Relations Officer to host a citizenship ceremony.

## Education-Oriented Activities

Activity Name	Stand-Alone or Joint	Description
Library In-House Citizenship Class	Either	Run your own citizenship class, or provide space for a class sponsored by the adult education program.
Tutoring Space	Joint	Offer space in your library for tutors to meet with students.
Supplementary Curricular Activities	Joint	Work with the adult education program to develop and execute various supplementary curricular activities in the library to support the topics covered in the naturalization interview and test.
Text Books Stocked	Joint	Ask adult education programs in your area which citizenship text books they use. Stock several copies of these text books to lend to students who cannot afford to buy their course text book.
Workshop on How Libraries Work in the U.S.	Joint	Give a workshop in English or in a variety of target languages on how the library works and what services it has to offer immigrants.

## Resources Activities

Activity Name	Stand-Alone or Joint	Description
Library Scavenger Hunt	Joint	In collaboration with the adult education program, create scavenger hunt worksheets. Students that are enrolled in the adult education program come to the library (either with their classmates or on their own), bring their worksheets, and search for citizenship-related items to take back and discuss with their class.
Citizenship Corners	Either	Dedicate shelves or areas of the library to providing citizenship information, encouragement, and a welcoming message.
Community Resources Guide (in a variety of languages)	Joint	In collaboration with the adult education program staff, create community resources guide in a variety of target languages.
Host USCIS Information Sessions	Either	Volunteer to host a USCIS Information Session at your library. These sessions provide a wealth of information to immigrants within the community. If interested, contact your Community Relations Officer.

