

TAIB Scholarship
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Throughout history, the world has become more connected and interdependent. Many people are expanding their citizenship beyond one country to becoming a citizen of the world, or global citizen. First of all, citizenship is defined as “a native or naturalized member of a state or nation who owes allegiance to its government and is entitled to its protection (distinguished from alien).” With that in mind it is safe to say that the global citizen’s allegiance is to every country. There are many debates and unanswered question about this idea. All in all, no matter what a person identifies with, they still hold many responsibilities and rights.

Before the United States was established in 1776, major world leaders had been making technological, social, environmental, and political advancements. In just a few hundred years, America has emerged as a superpower and set an example for all to follow. The principles and freedoms granted by the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, for instance; life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, make America one of the most desirable countries to live in. Still, these laws and rights are national laws that only apply to U.S citizens. State governments also have their own laws that residents must follow. As a citizen, one is granted these rights but is expected to withhold their responsibilities in return, for example: paying taxes, jury duty, voting and being informed about the government. As a government founded “by the people, for the people” it is the duty of its citizens, to make sure the government listens to the people. American citizens are concerned with global issues, but have many other interests in mind. Over the years, America has become more focused on being the wealthiest nation, having the most powerful military, and overall being the land of opportunity and success. At times the country can be blind to some of the bigger issues that surround it.

As a global citizen, it is hard to determine the exact obligations one has because they are fighting for the world. Some global citizens believe they should follow the laws of nature and international laws. Effects on the environment and human rights are issues that the American government is concerned about, but are some of the main focuses for global citizens. For instance, American citizens may be focused on taking advantage of the cheap labor and therefore look the other way to harsh working conditions in third world countries. A global citizen would be fighting for human rights for those workers.

The main difference between these two types of citizenships is the fact that Americans must follow the laws of the state and federal government, while a global citizen is following the ideals and the best interest for the world. Their laws are not sanctioned by one government. Many global citizens believe that their responsibilities lie in the environmental, economic, social, and political factors of the entire world. The First and Second World War brought many of the most powerful countries together. American foreign policies at war time and post war are always made for the best interest of the country and its allies. Global citizens feel that world peace is where their allegiance lies, and war is not the answer. They believe that countries should include a level of moral goodwill in their foreign policy decisions. They are looking to benefit the world as a whole while America has to keep its own interests in mind before the rest of the world. Although it sounds obvious, the fact remains true that without the world there is nothing and therefore no America. Being a global citizen rewards not only the individual but the entire globe. Global citizens want everyone to be aware of the global community and international relations. They are not focused on the success of one country.

At the same time, globalization has increased dramatically in the 20th and 21st centuries and continues to increase. The globe is now connected through multiple types of transportation

and communication. The internet is one of the key factors that global citizens use as a tool regarding their claim of global citizenship. The Internet has changed the world in such a way that information is sent from one part of the world to another in just seconds. Products and ideas are exchanged with the click of a mouse. The great modern technological advances are harder and harder to keep up with but bring the world together as a community. The national markets interlock more than they ever did before creating a huge international market. Most of American motivation is consuming, business, and, without a doubt, money. After all, America is the land of opportunity and personal gain.

The current economic downturn has affected the U.S economy as well as all major markets. At the moment, most of the world is in financial crisis. The continuing economic crisis faced by this country and many of the political issues still unsettled make America a little less desirable. Americans are never defeated, however, and always fighting for what they want and is right. But still, America looks to help other countries in need. America is still is the best. Being an American means being proud of the country's rich history, being open minded to the ever changing world, and evolving as fast as necessary. Being a global citizen means something similar. The global citizen takes pride in beliefs of the world and practices various ideas. It means fighting for the welfare of the planet and its people.

Both the American and global citizens believe in world peace, human rights, respecting other cultures, and fighting against global warming. Though they may differ in their specific obligations or goals, they do stand for many of the same things. Being an American citizen does not mean that one could not identify as a global citizen. It does, however, define their responsibilities, motivations, and rights as a citizen.