CASAS National Summer Institute 2015

RESOURCES AND STRATEGIES FOR THE USCIS CITIZENSHIP INTERVIEW PART 2

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RESOURCES AND STRATEGIES FOR THE USCIS CITIZENSHIP INTERVIEW Part 1 AND Part 2

- PART 1
  - USCIS N-400r Application for Naturalization
  - USCIS Resources
- **PART 2**
  - **CASAS Life/Work Reading series**
  - **CASAS Citizenship Assessments**
  - **CASAS EL Civics and the Naturalization Interview**
  - **US Citizenship Prep Class**
  - **ESL/Citizenship Resources**

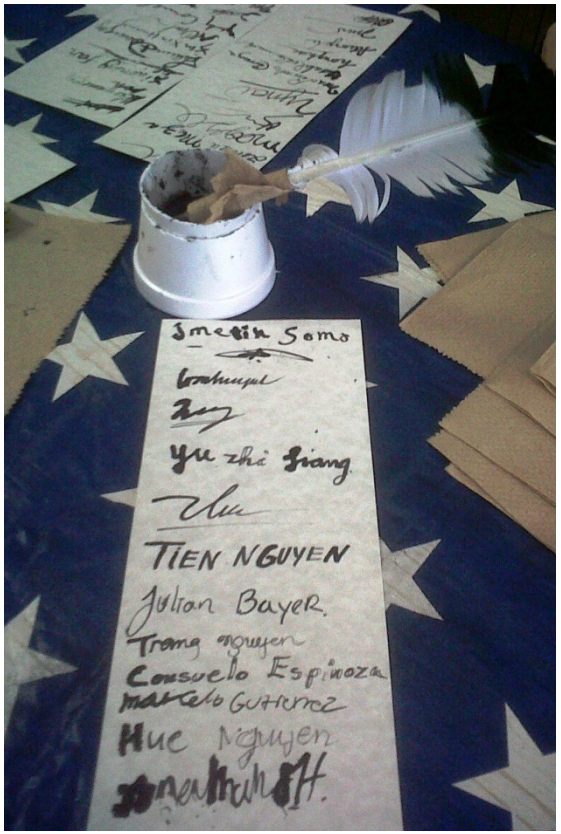
The USCIS N-400 and the CASAS Life/Work Reading series

- Example of CASAS Literacy Test 27R
- Example of CASAS Level C Test 185R
- Correlation between the CASAS Life/Work Tests and the N-400r

CASAS Literacy Test 27R

Model Standard:

- R2.4 Use capitalization as a clue to interpret words
  (e.g., names, place names, other proper nouns)



27R

Tien Nguyen

Part 2. Information About You *(Person applying for naturalization)*

1. **Your Current Legal Name** *(do not provide a nickname)*

Family Name *(Last Name)* | Given Name *(First Name)* | Middle Name *(if applicable)*

Part 12. Your Signature *(USCIS will reject your Form N-400 if it is not signed)*

Your Statement

I certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, that this application, and the evidence submitted with it, are all true and correct. I authorize the release of any information USCIS needs to determine my eligibility for naturalization.

Your Signature | **Date** *(mm/dd/yyyy)*

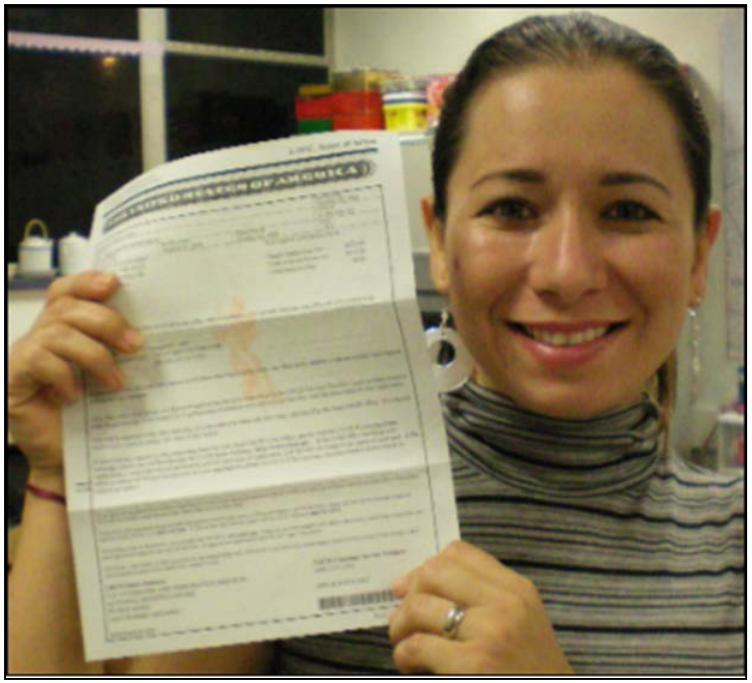
We signed the Constitution!

I signed my N-400!

CASAS Level C Test 185R

Model Standard:

Interpret simple authentic materials on familiar topics
(newspaper articles on current events, social letters, public information notices)



Erika's Fingerprint Appointment Notice!

185R

FINGERPRINTING
Room 108
M - F 8 am – 4 pm
No appt. necessary.
Sat. by appointment only
Room 109

Sample questions:

- ***Where do you go?***
- ***When do you need an appointment?***

CASAS Life/Work Tests & the N-400r

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Strong correlation between the N-400 and CASAS Test

Test #s based on 2008 paper tests

	Placement		Literacy		Level A			
	020L	020R	027R	028R	081R	082R	081RX	082RX
Job/ school	12,13,22	14,15,16, 17,18			21,24	21	5,12,25	**9**,10
Money	8,12		13,**19**	11,**19**	**6**,14,17	7,17	11,20	2,10,11,1 5,17,18,**1 9**,20,23,2

	Level B		Level C		Level D		CIT	
	083R	084R	185R	186R	187R	188R	973S	974S
Job/ school	5,6,15,**16, 19**	1,2,3,4,5, 15,16,17, 19	9,10,22,2 3,25,27,2 8	2,21,22,2 3,26,27,2 830,31,32	1,2	1,2,9,102 8,29	**17, Years of School**	**18, Years of School**
Money	21,22	10,17	11	17,18,19, 27	5,**12,13**	1,2,22,23	**16**	**17**

CASAS Citizenship Assessments

- CASAS Reading for Citizenship Tests (951/952R)
- CASAS Gov't/History LISTENING TEST for Citizenship (965/966G)
- CASAS Citizenship Interview Test (CIT) (973/974S)

CASAS Citizenship Assessments

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CASAS Reading for Citizenship Tests (951/952R)

- Target population:
  - Low beginning ESL students
- Competencies Assessed:
  - Reading comprehension in a citizenship context
  - These tests do not measure knowledge of the government and history of the United States.
- Test Administration:
  - One-on-one or group administration
  - Multiple-choice questions
  - Large-print, reusable test booklet

CASAS Gov't/History LISTENING TEST
for Citizenship (965/966G)

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- formerly CASAS Citizenship Field Test 889,

  supersedes 963/964
- Multiple choice listening test.
- Students listen to thirty recorded questions.
- Each question is repeated twice.
- The questions are based on the new 100 questions.

Practice 1

a) Red and black
b) Red, white, and blue
c) Black and white
d) White, gold, and green

Practice 2

a) John Adams
b) Thomas Jefferson
c) George Washington
d) Alexander Hamilton

CASAS Citizenship Interview Test (CIT) (973/974S)

- The Citizenship Interview Test (CIT) is a standardized oral assessment that assesses the speaking skills of adult ESL & Citizenship learners.
- **The CIT helps determine if an individual is ready to pass the USCIS naturalization interview**.
- Target population: High Beg. to Adv. ESL students
- For more info, see 2014-5 Citizenship Preparation Questions and Answers bit.ly/1pkYrcV

CASAS Citizenship Interview Test (CIT) continued

- Competencies Assessed:
  - Small talk
  - Topics from the N-400 Application for Naturalization

CAVEAT!

  - This test does not measure knowledge of the US gov't and history.
  - This test detours from the N-400 question sequence.

- Test Administration:
  - One-on-one interview format (approx. 15 to 20 minutes)
- Training is required to administer this test.
  - A self-training manual provides a training CD and certification exercises.

CASAS Quick Search

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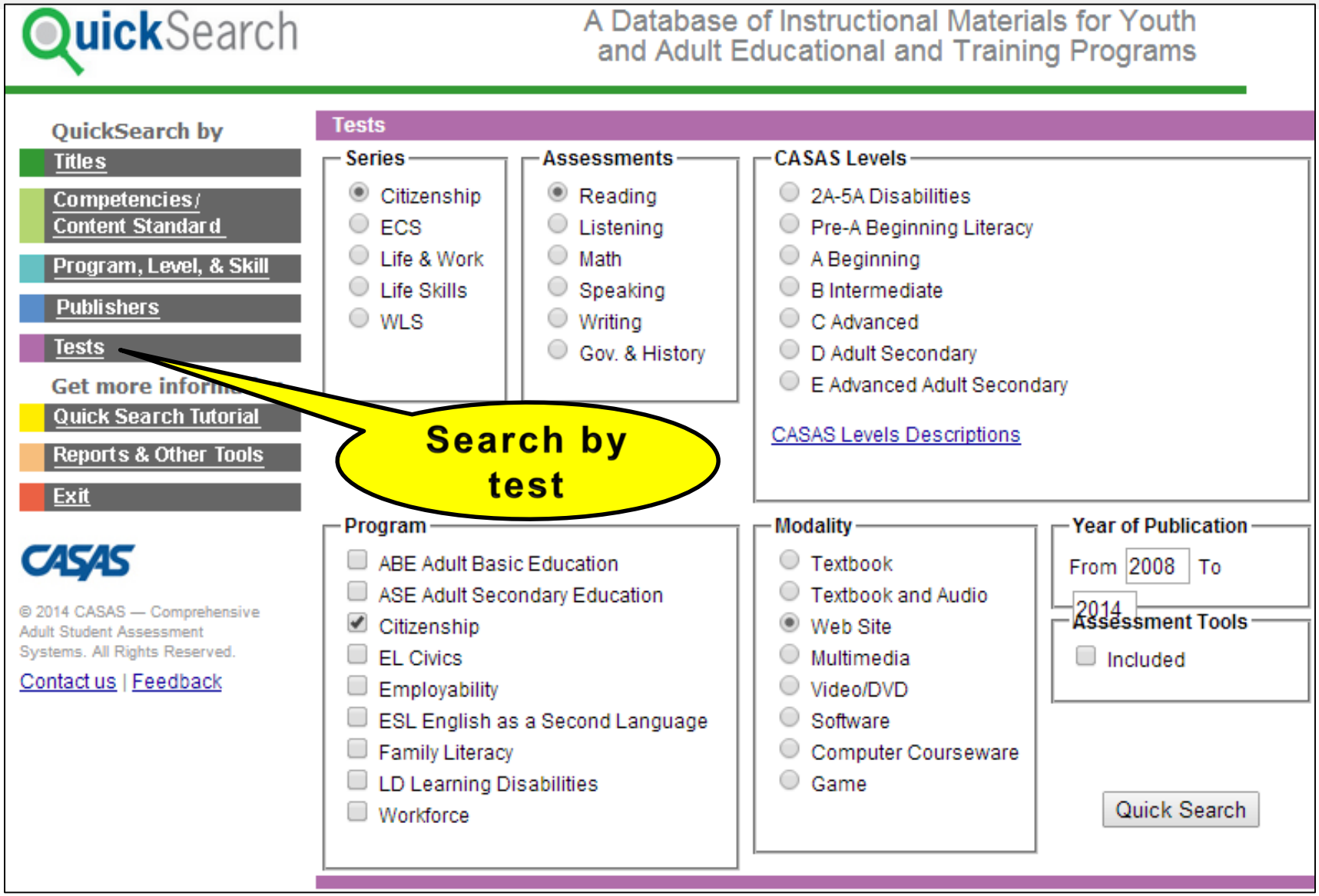

CASAS Quick Search continued

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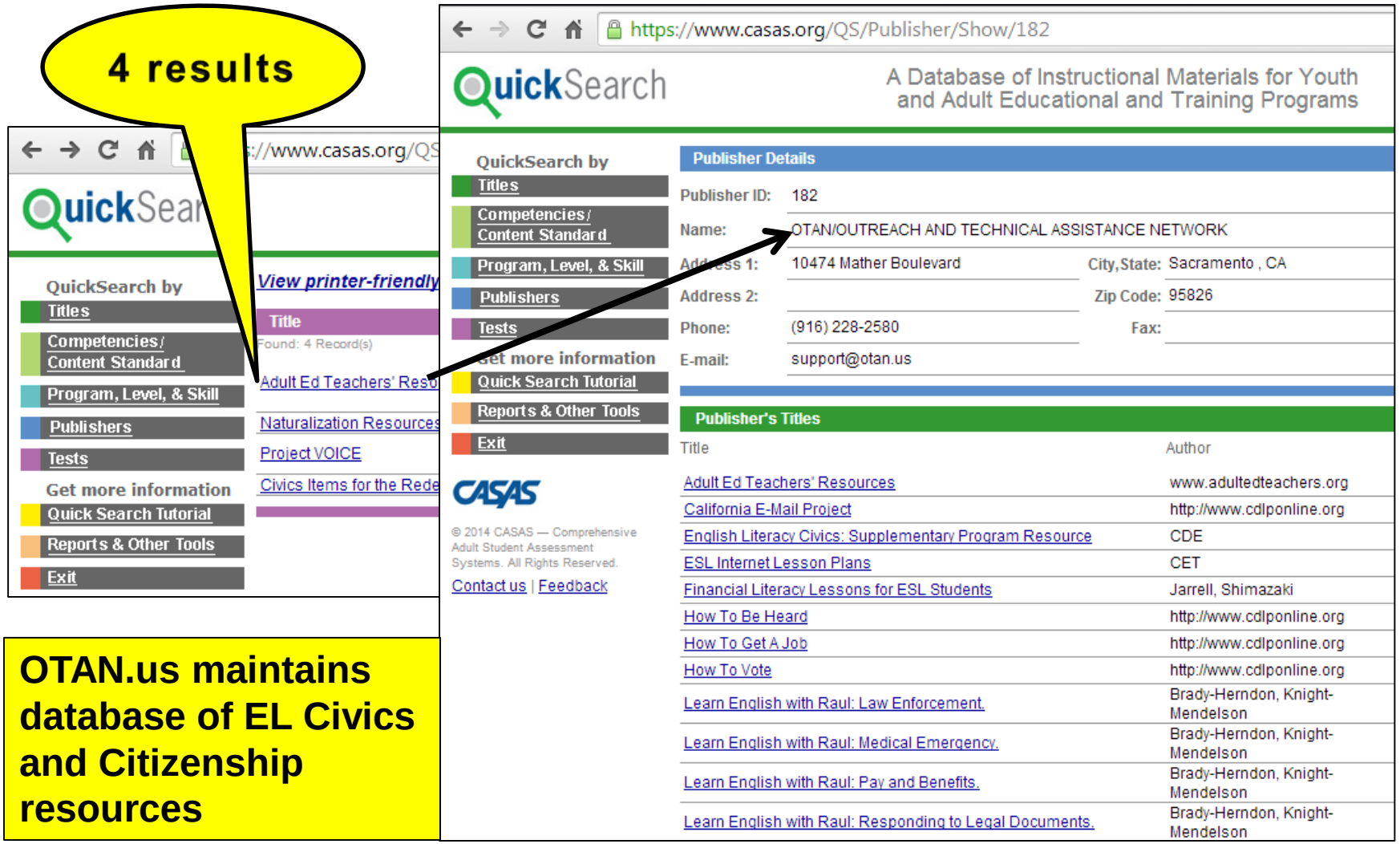
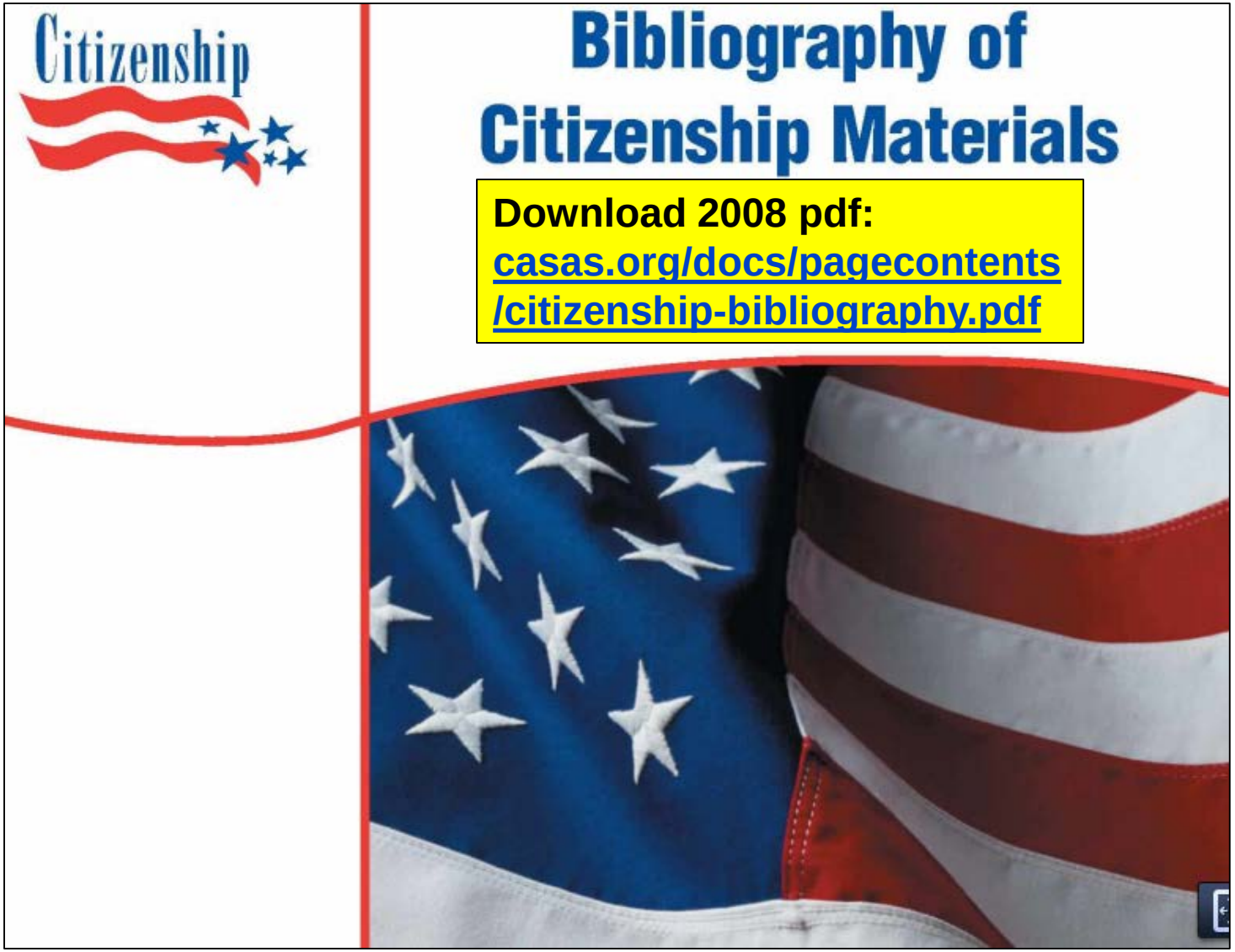


OTAN.us maintains database of EL Civics and Citizenship resources

CASAS Bibliography of Citizenship Materials



CASAS EL Civics and the Naturalization Interview

- Intro to EL Civics Objectives 40
- EL Civics Objective 40 Language/Literacy Objectives
- COAPPS 40.4
- COAPPS 40.4 Mock Interview

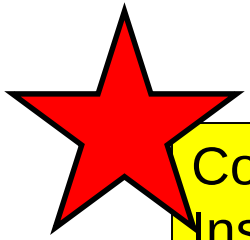
Intro to EL Civics Objectives 40

- **EL Civics Objectives 40:**

  Government and Law – Citizenship Preparation

  - Respond to questions about the history and government of the United States in order to be successful in the naturalization process.

- EL Civics Focus Area(s):
  - Naturalization
  - U.S. History
  - Civic Engagement
  - Government



Correlation of Instructional Materials to EL Civics Objectives 40 available at http://bit.ly/1kQao4f

EL Civics Objective 40 Language Objectives

1. *Discuss basic historical events or patriotic symbols.

2. *Describe the colors and design of the American flag, and discuss the meaning of the stars and stripes.

3. *Identify the three branches of American government.

4. Identify three levels of American government and describe their major functions.

5. *Write vocabulary words and dictated sentences from U.S. history and civics topics.

EL Civics Objective 40 Language Objectives continued

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6. *Name the following:

- President
- Vice President
- your U.S. Senators
- Your Representative
- the Governor of California
- the Chief Justice of the U.S.
- the Mayor of your city
- other government officials.

7. Read, discuss, and/or write about issues relating to the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

8. Describe the three branches of American gov't.

EL Civics Objective 40 Language Objectives

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9. Demonstrate the ability to give appropriate answers to questions taken from the N-400 citizenship application.

10. Identify ways a citizen can participate in democracy.

11. Identify important people and events in American history and discuss related impact on our lives today.

COAPPS 40.4

- ELC: Citizenship Preparation 40.4
  - Oral, Written (no portfolio) Beginning Low – Advanced
- Language and Literacy Objectives 1,2,3,5,6,7
- Additional Tasks:
  - Prepare for a USCIS Interview
    - Student will participate in a mock oral USCIS interview.
  - Practice Dictation (up to 3 level-appropriate sentences)
  - Write a Letter or an Article related to the Constitution or Bill of Rights

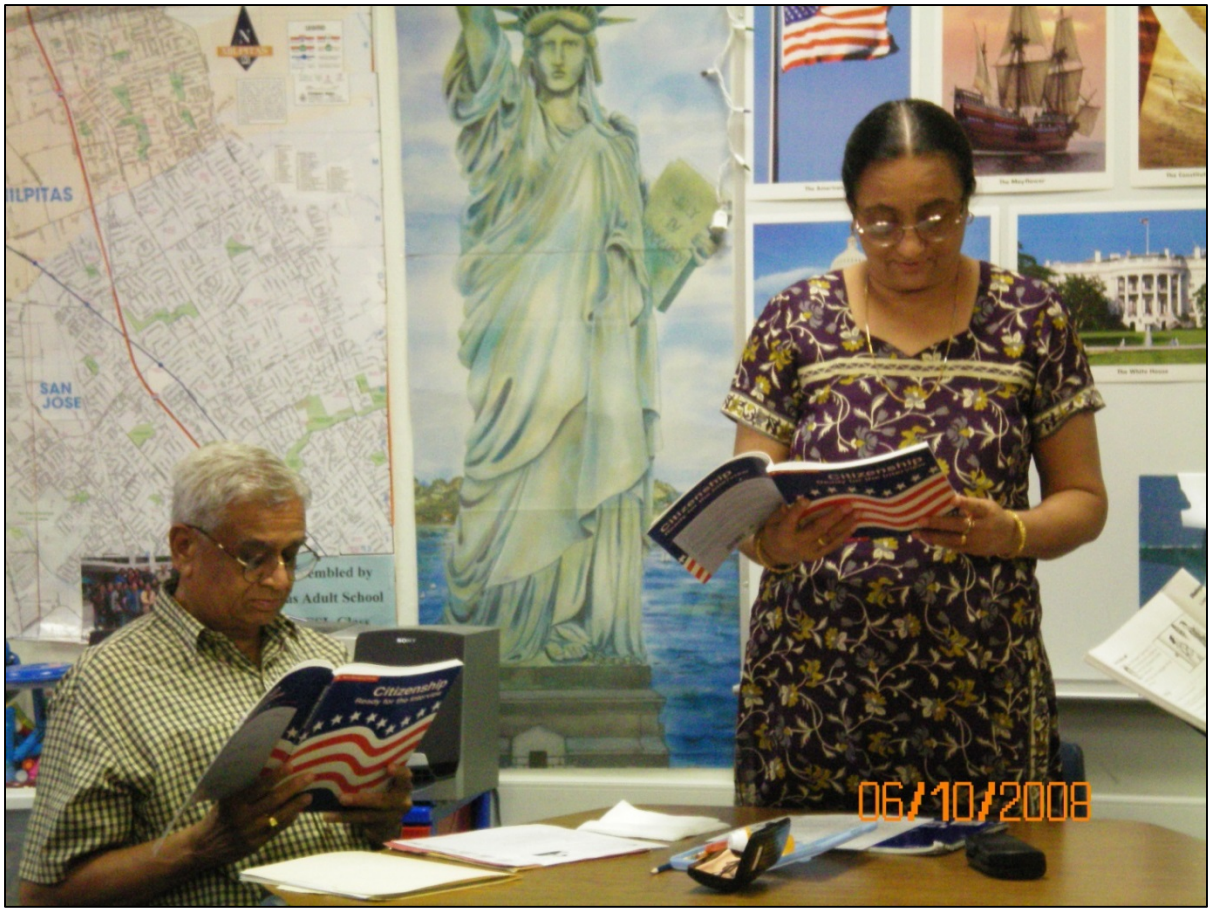
COAPPS 40.4 Mock Interview

- Student will answer up to 12 level-appropriate USCIS interview questions such as the following:
  - *State your full name.*
  - *What is your age?*
  - *What is your current address?*
  - *Why do you want to become a U.S. citizen?*
  - *Explain how you support yourself.*
- In addition, interview will contain questions from the USCIS 100 questions, such as:
  - *What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?*
  - *Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?*

US Citizenship Prep Class

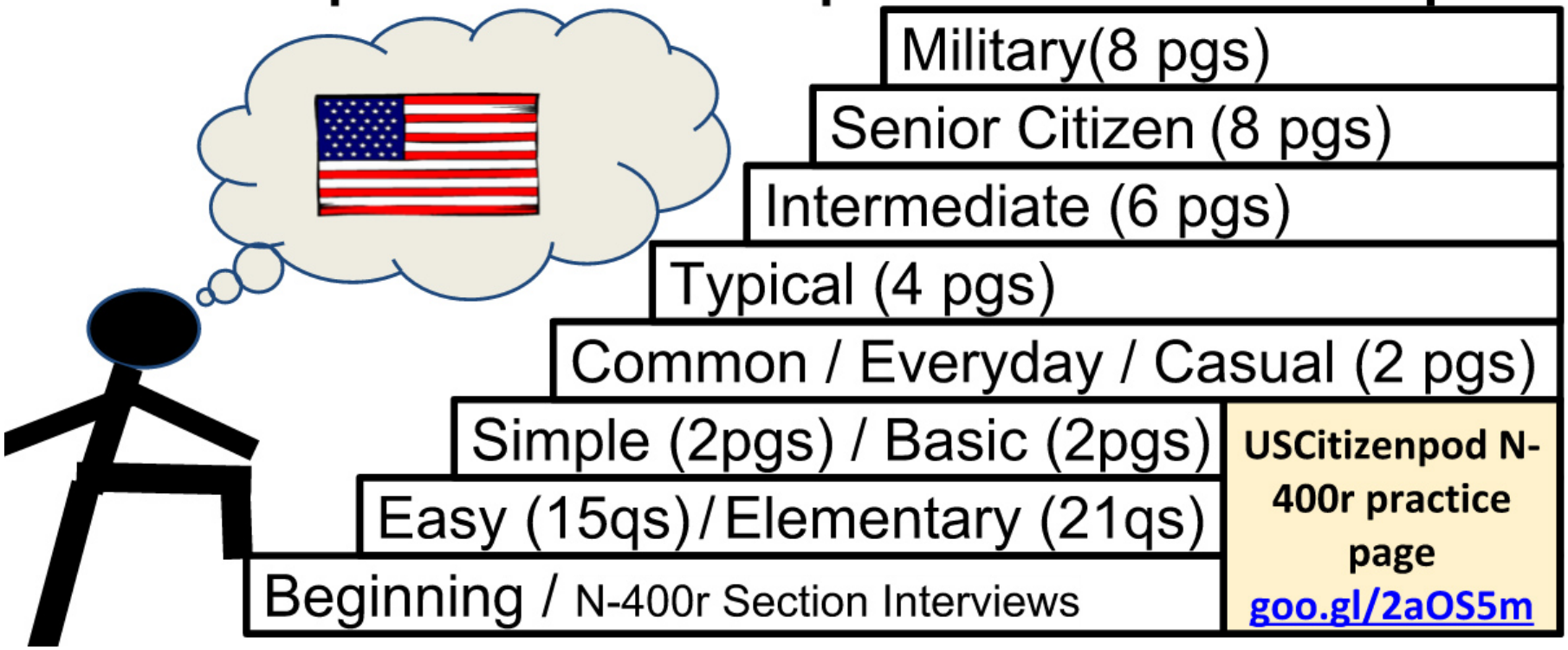
- *Welcome to Citizenship Class!*
- Leveled Interviews
- Baseline: The Easy N-400r Interview
- *The gate is still stuck!*
- *The gate swings open!*
- Collaborative Class Projects via Google Drive
- Citizenship ePortfolios

Welcome to Citizenship Class!

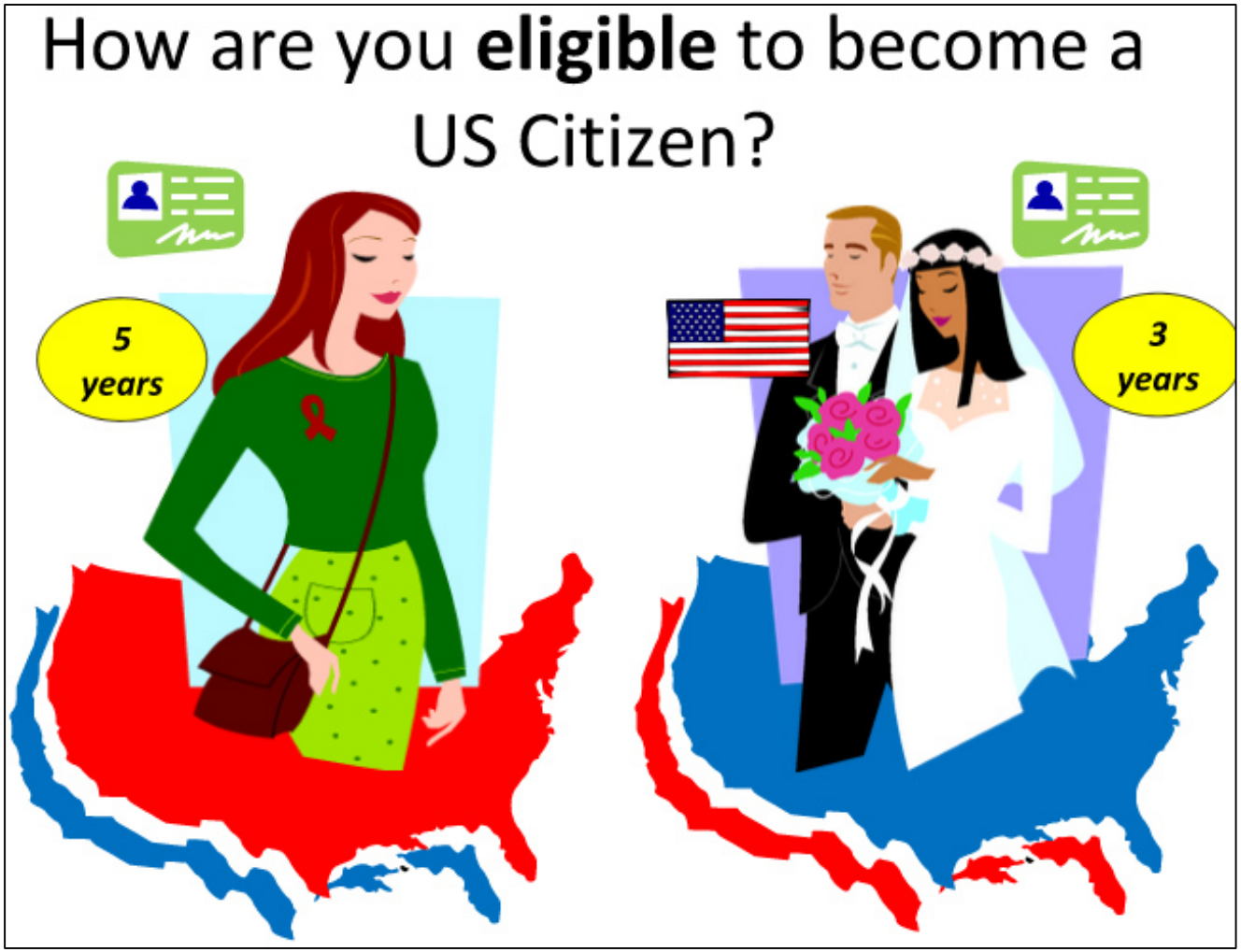


- USCIS N-400r
- USCIS 100qs
- CASAS Work/Life Pre/Post Tests
- CASAS Citizenship Assessments

Leveled Interviews by uscitizenpod.com



The Easy N-400r Interview



- 15 questions baseline interview
- Teacher created pptx
- Shared via Google slides

The gate is still stuck!

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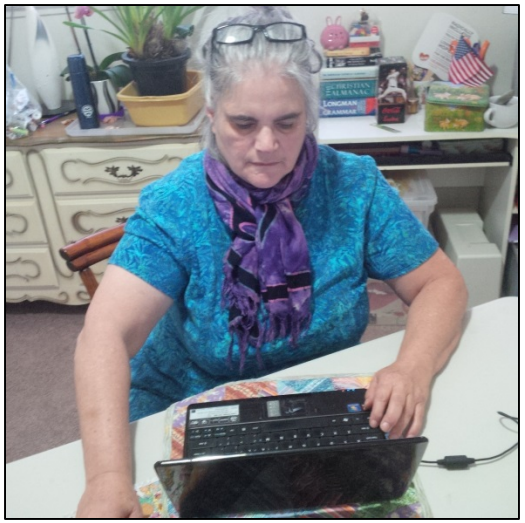
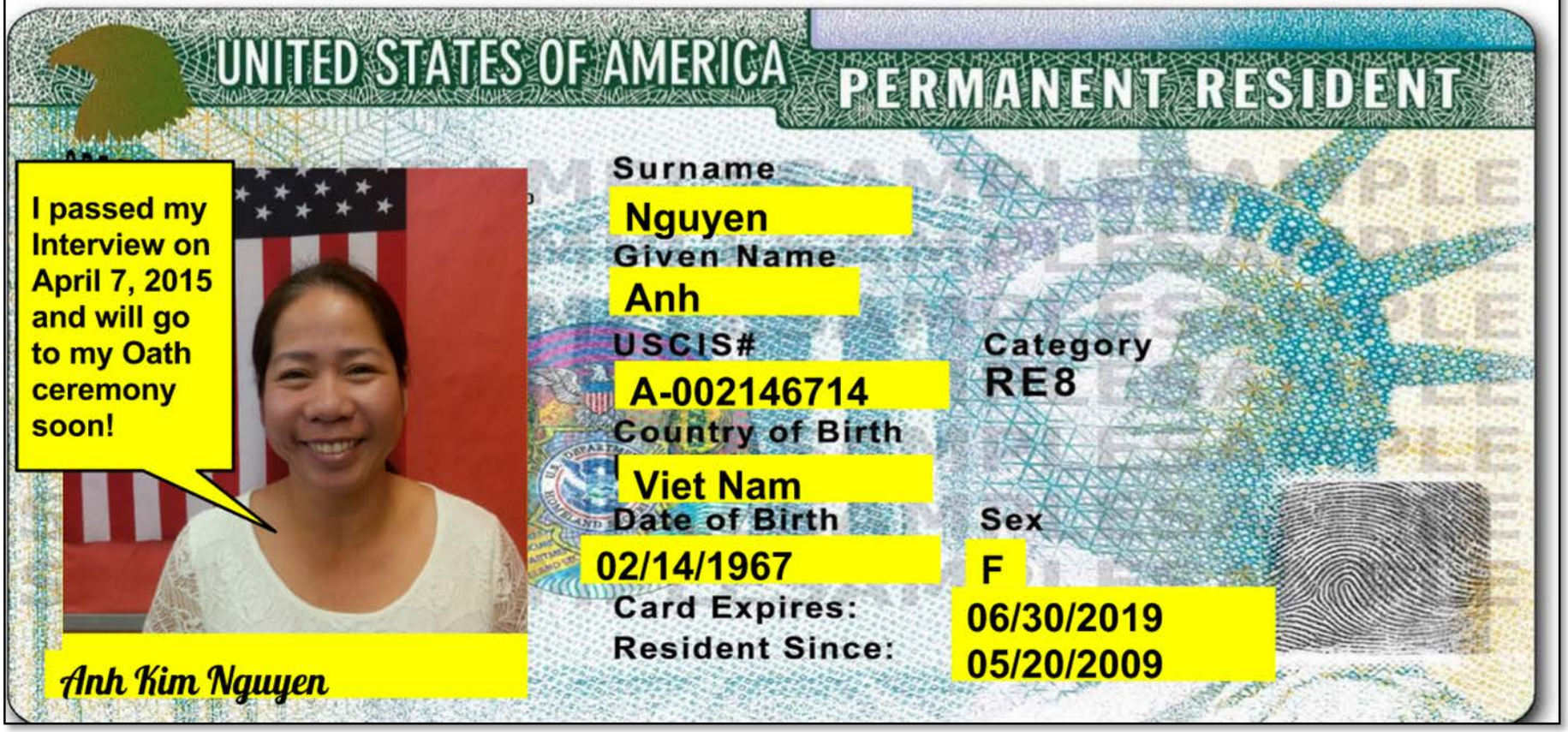
uscitizenpod → uscitizenpodclass!



Transitioning from teacher-created to <u>student-created content</u>!

The gate swings open!

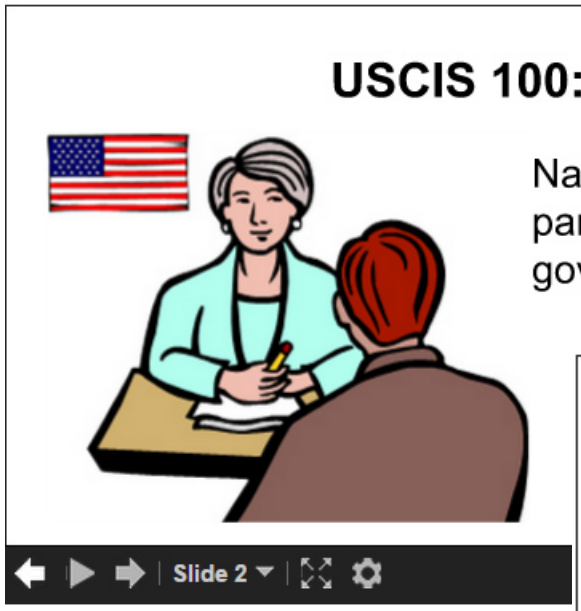
I was a legal Permanent Resident for more than 5 years.



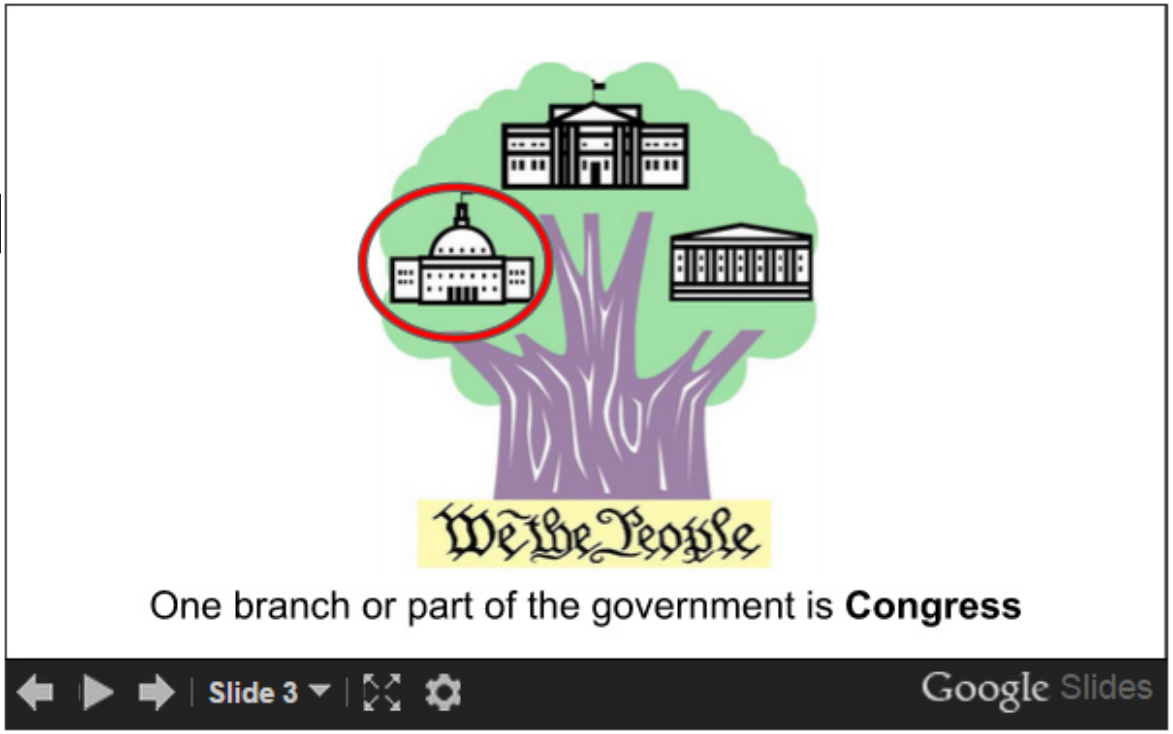
Citizenship Eligibility:

a Google Drive Class Project http://goo.gl/aZ1l8Z

Student Collaboration



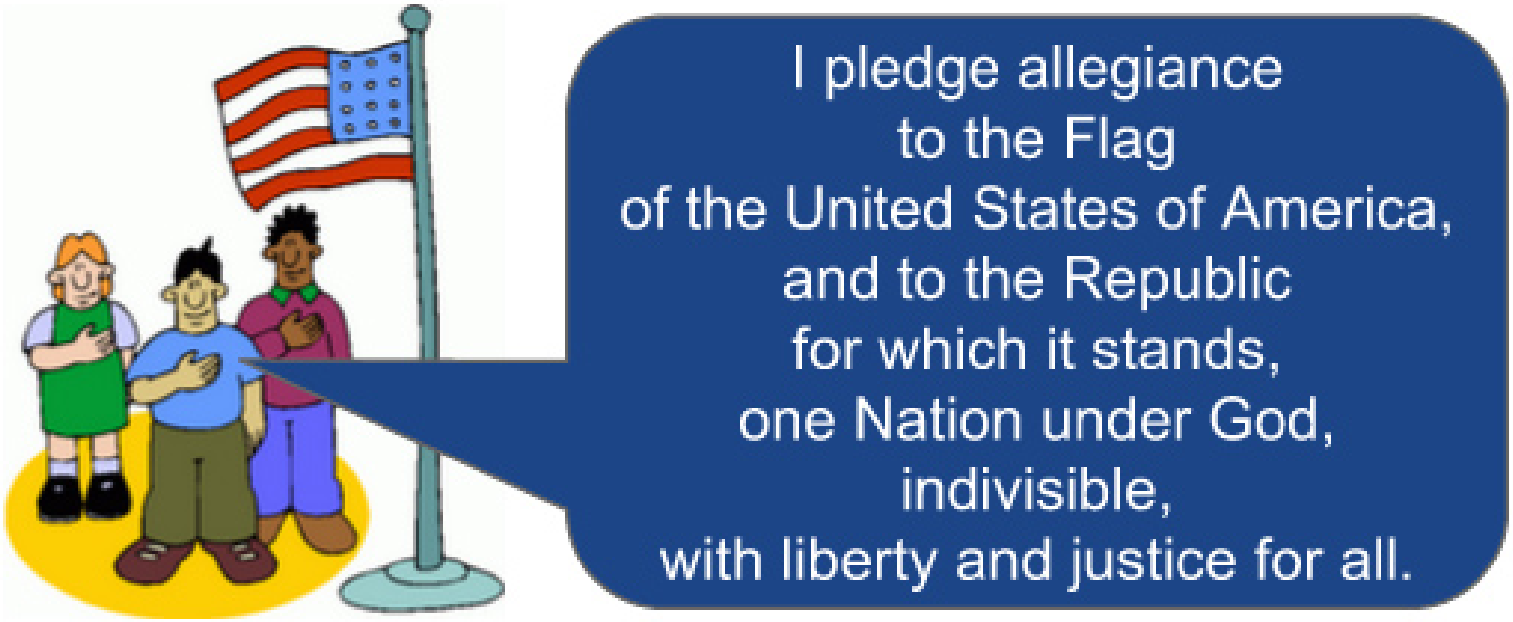
Branches of Government Part 1, 2, 3



Three Google Drive class projects

- https://goo.gl/6l4ykD
- https://goo.gl/lL9hYQ
- https://goo.gl/8Jat94

Rights and Responsibilities



When we say the Pledge of Allegiance,
we show loyalty to the **United States**.

Slide 11

Google Slides

a Google Drive
Collaborative Class Project
https://goo.gl/qEkq7N

Citizenship ePortfolios

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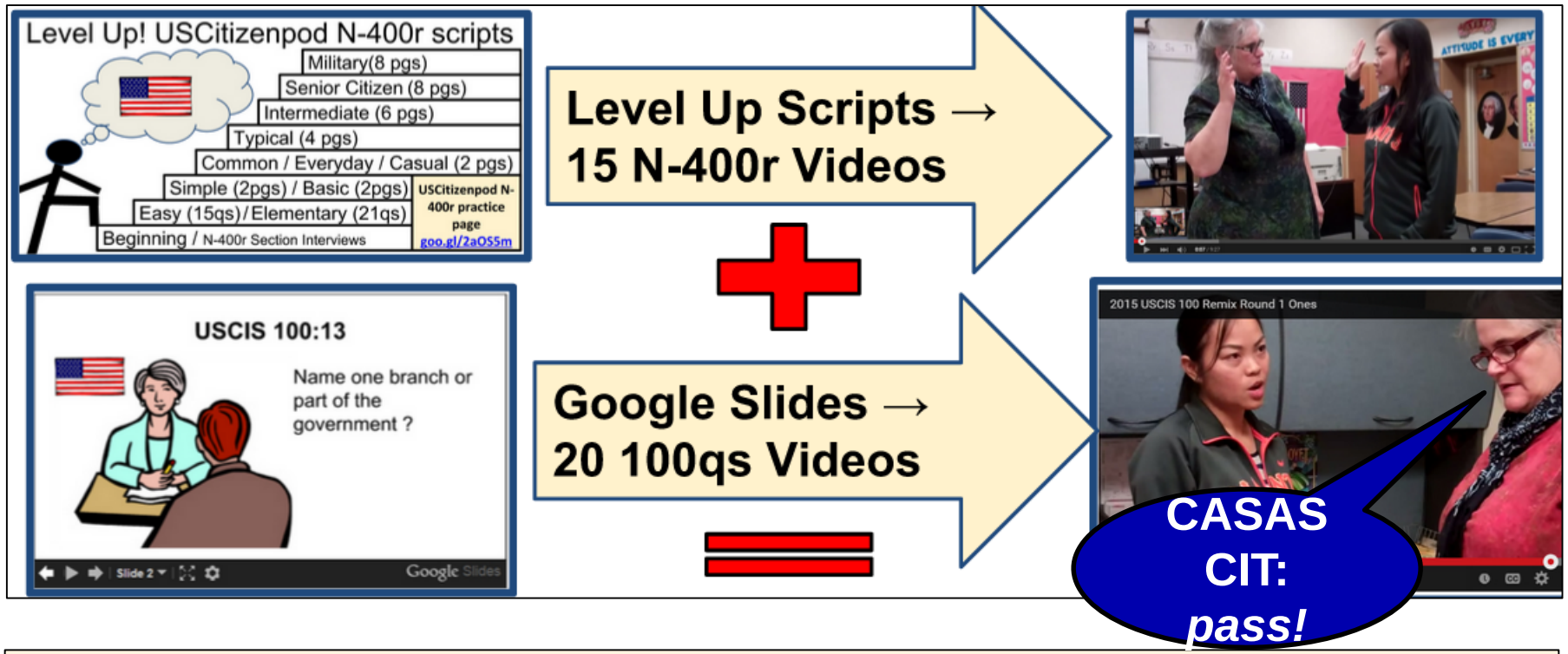

OTAN /uscitizenpod: Citizenship ePortfolios

an excerpt from OTAN Webinar 06/17/2015: ePortfolios for Empowered Students and Happy Teachers: A Pilot by OTAN in 2014-2015

https://goo.gl/F7D5bV

Deliverables available at

http://www.uscitizenpod.com/p/citizenship-eportfolio-project.html

ESL/Citizenship Resources

- Favorite Textbooks plus "Holding the Bag"
- USCIS Citizenship Resource Center
- SI.edu: Preparing for the Oath
- EL Civics Online and EL Civics for ESL Students
- Citizenship Teacher, Citizenship Works, & VOA
- US Citizenship Podcast N-400r Project
- More ESL/Citizenship Resources
- *Your Mission…*

Favorite Textbooks

Cengage/Heinle 2010

- US Citizen, Yes!, 3rd ed.

New Readers Press

- Ready for the Interview
- Citizenship Passing the Test—updated!
- Citizenship Literacy Skills workbook

Pearson-Longman

- Voices of Freedom, 4th ed. Plus updates!
- Future U.S. Citizens (*ebook, 2011)

Cambridge12/08/08

- Citizenship Now! CD/DVD

ESL/Citizenship Enrichment

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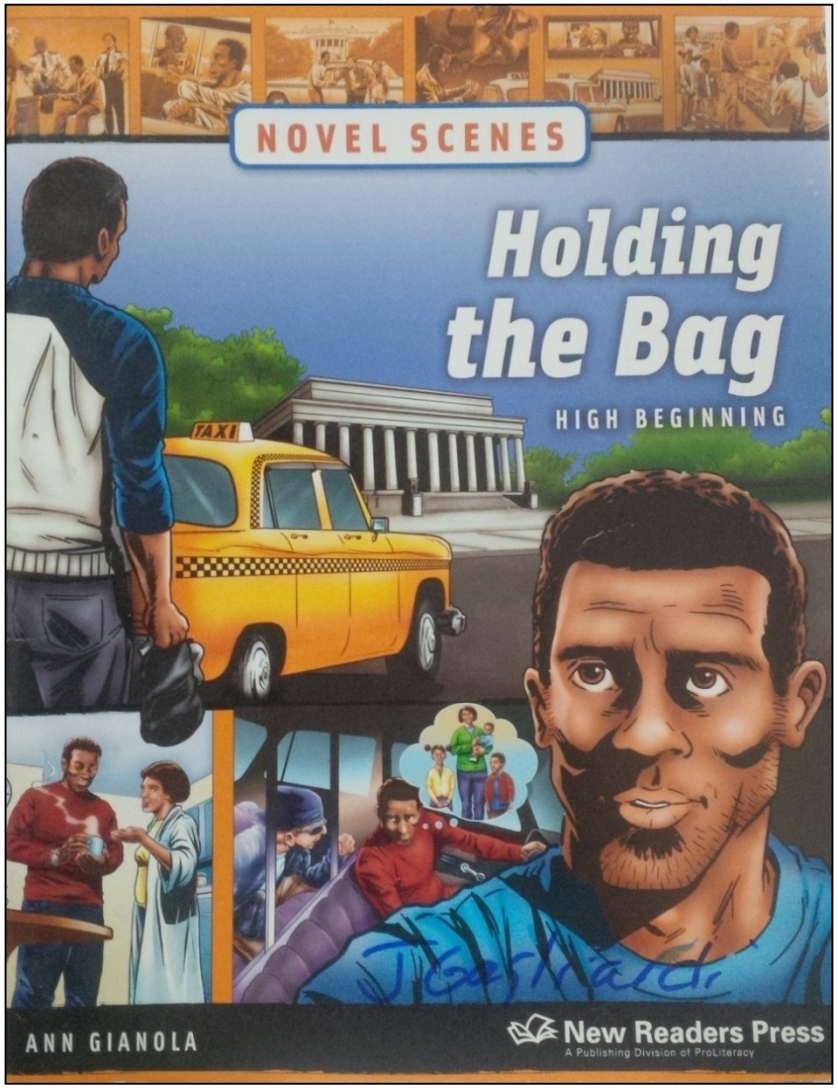


"Holding the Bag"

a high beginning ESL novel by Ana Gianola, 978-1-56420-544-5

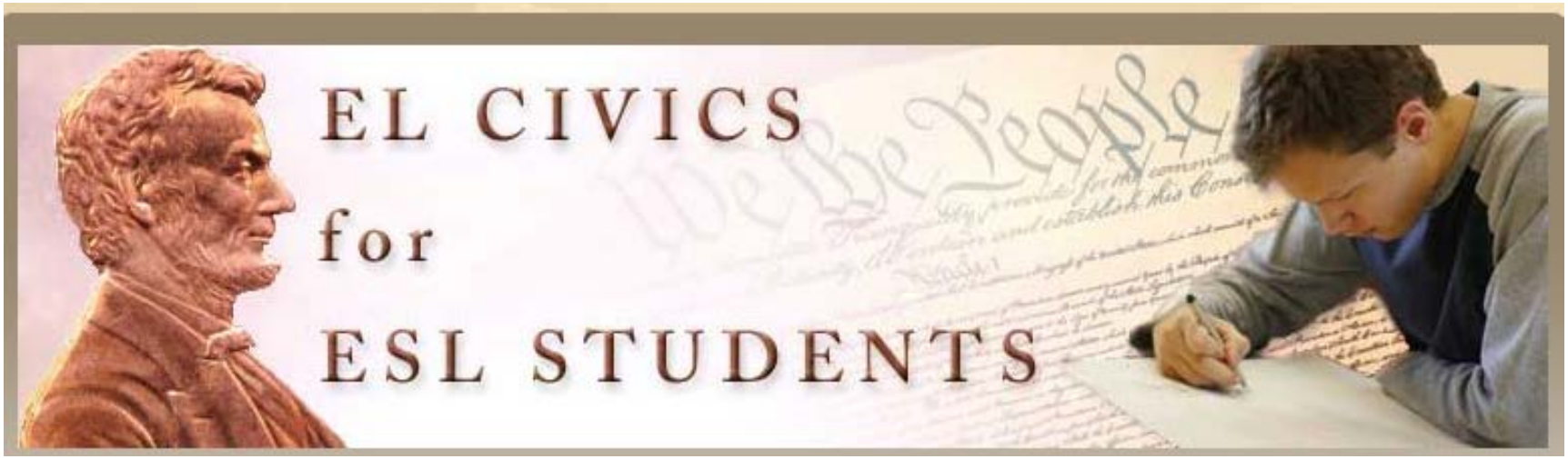
Negasi is a Washington DC taxi driver from Ethiopia. He has lived in the US with his family for many years. He accidentally becomes involved in a robbery and faces a moral issue.

uscitizenpod: Prepare for your citizenship interview and Martin Luther King Day with a multiple choice test about Krestos Negasi's interview and 10 USCIS questions. (pdf)

EL Civics Online

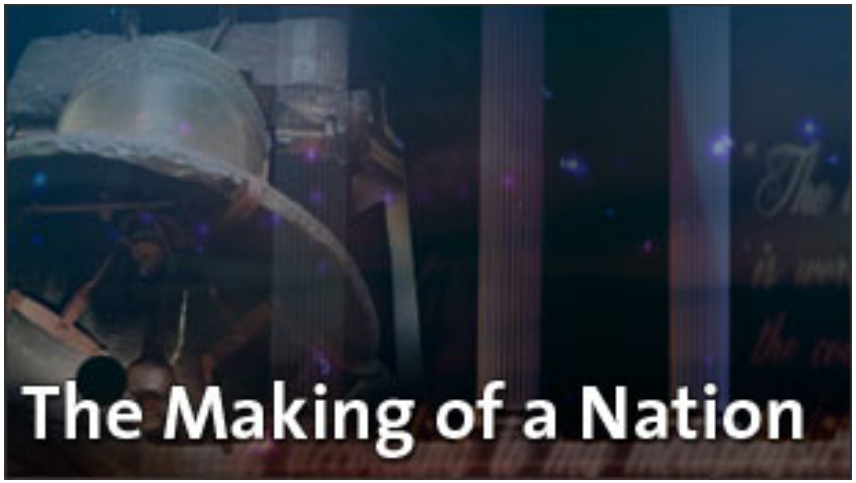
ELCivicsOnline.org is a unique professional development opportunity for ESL instructors and volunteers who wish to incorporate EL/Civics content into their adult ESL classrooms.

EL Civics for ESL Students



Learn EL Civics and ESL with pictures and easy words. The following EL Civics and U.S. History and Government lessons are now available: Statue of Liberty, Washington, D.C., American Bald Eagle, 50 U.S. States, and more. English Language Civics provides an easy way to learn about U.S. history, government, citizenship, geography, and culture. New lessons, worksheets, PowerPoint presentations, lesson plans and videos are added to ***www.elcivics.com*** every week.

CitizenshipWorks Mobile App



The Making of a Nation explains the history of the United States, and each week tells how the country and its people have developed.

This Is America looks at a major issue in American life and society each week, and explores popular places across the United States.

Also check out ListenandReadAlong US Citizenship Test Material
http://goo.gl/VYEb34

US Citizenship Podcast

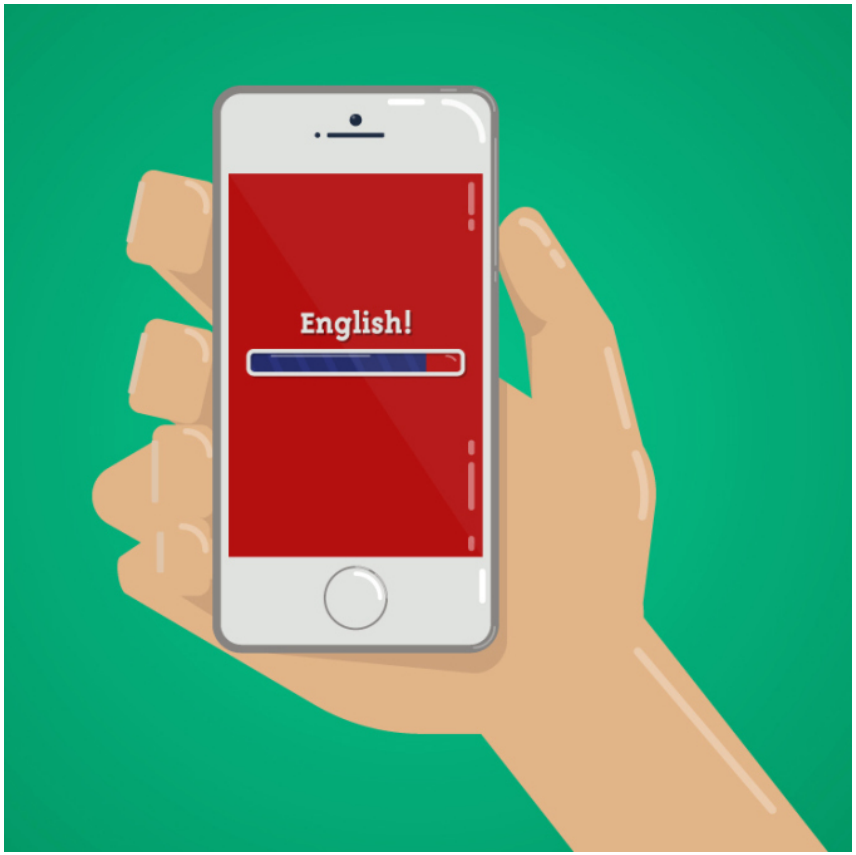
uscitizenpod.com

A daily blog about Citizenship, Naturalization, and Immigration news and resources.

- US Citizenship Podcast via iTunes http://goo.gl/PqvuxZ
- N-400 practice http://goo.gl/2aOS5
- LISTEN to Interviews http://goo.gl/zoBbv2
- USCIS 100 Quizzes http://goo.gl/0e73Zs
- More Podcasts! http://goo.gl/rzJxQD
- 2015 http://goo.gl/e0kxIR
- Citizenship Games http://goo.gl/FQ6Nz9
- Citizenship by the Month http://goo.gl/anuy8n
- Citizenship ePortfolios Project http://goo.gl/Rje3V0

Check out our interview videos on our YouTube channel!

More ESL/Citizenship Resources



Free ESL and Citizenship Self-Study Resources for Summer 2015 pdf

via Google Drive

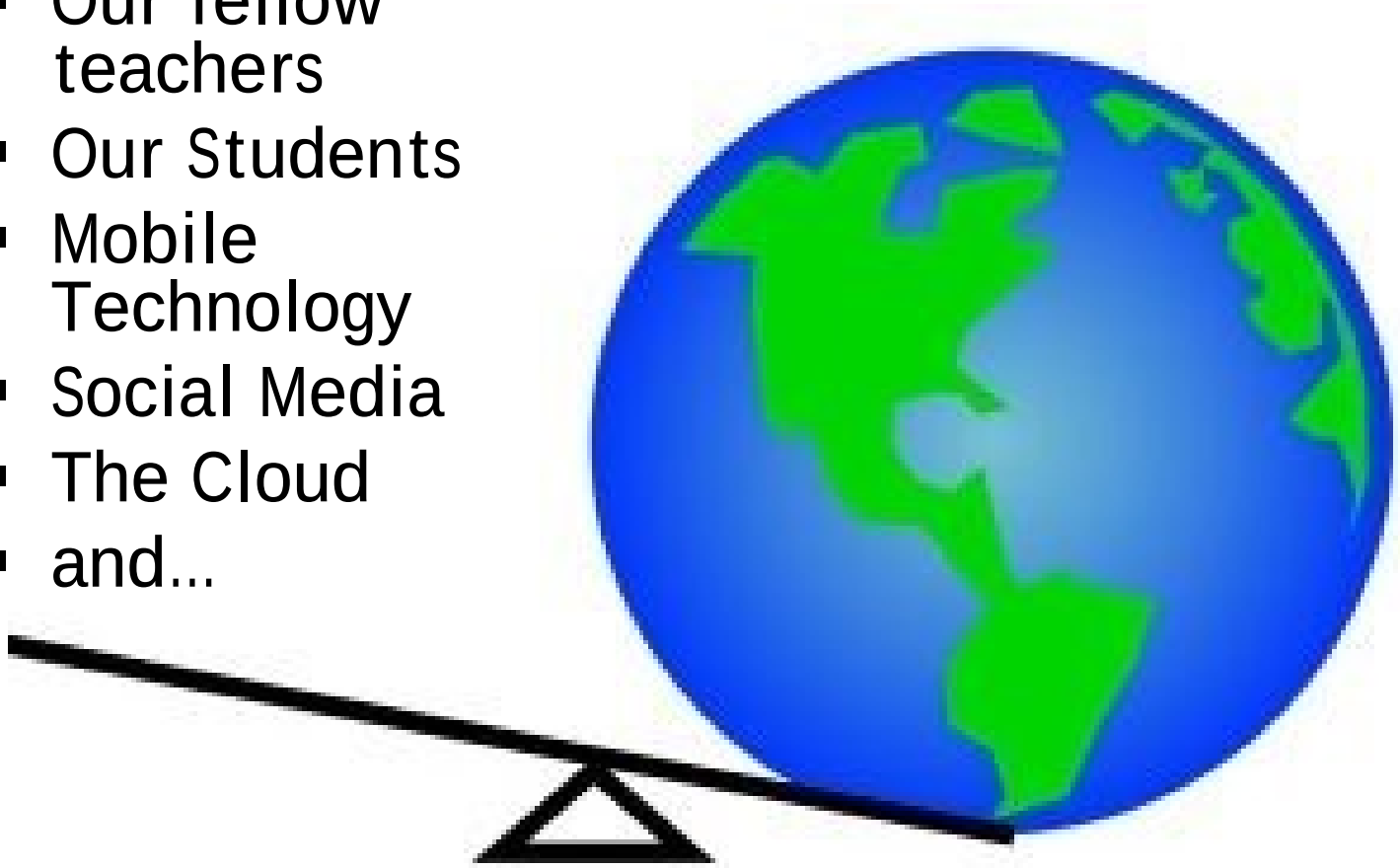
goo.gl/6oQvDY

Your mission
(should you choose to accept it)

- Use CASAS CIT and other ESL/Citizenship assessments.
- Use appropriate technology.
  - Start and maintain a Citizenship Class website.
- Develop and post online resources, particularly related to the N-400r part 11 questions 14-21.
- Develop materials that enable to students to "own" the 100qs.
- Encourage students to practice for the USCIS Interview outside of the classroom.

If We ~~had~~ have a lever long enough...

- USCIS
- Our fellow teachers
- Our Students
- Mobile Technology
- Social Media
- The Cloud
- and…



Thank You for Attending!

- Be sure to visit the CASAS website at www.casas.org
- Follow us on **Twitter** twitter.com/CASASsystem and use the hashtag #casassi2015 to tweet updates, photos, and stories.
- Keep in touch with **Facebook** facebook.com/CASASsystem use the hashtag #casassi2015 to share photos and post stories.
- Visit us on the YouTube Channel
- "Resources and Strategies for the USCIS Citizenship Interview Part 1 and Part 2" is available on on uscitizenpod.com