

## How to Be a Good American

In this essay I am going to walk through what it means to be a good American citizen. You need to be patriotic, you must model the qualities of an American citizen, and you also have to appreciate and foster diversity and freedom in America.

Yes we know what patriotic means, but what does patriotism truly look like? One important thing to know about patriotism is that being nationalistic and patriotic are very different things. While one is to be avoided, the other should be practiced. Patriotism is the quality of being devoted and highly supportive of one's country. While nationalism is pursuing our own interests completely *disregarding the interest and well being of other nations*. To be a good citizen you must learn to be openly patriotic to your country while understanding that others feel the same about their country and learning to respect that.

Now how do you model the qualities of an American citizen? What are these qualities? Kindness, being good to the people around you. Compassion, love your neighbor as yourself and take care of one another. Honesty, tell only the truth. Love of justice, not only ask others to be fair but also be fair yourself. Moral courage, stand up for what you believe in while respecting what others believe in as well. I believe that if everyone in America looked to these qualities as everyday goals and strived to make them their children's goals too, America would be a better place to live.

This nation was founded by people seeking freedom of religion. People from all over came to this new land giving it great diversity. Over the years our soldiers have fought hard to establish and protect our freedom. So we need to allow it to remain that way.

So go, go be patriotic so that we may be united as a nation. Practice and teach the qualities that make a good American. And allow the diversity this country was founded on so we can remain a beautiful, strong nation.