



**LAES has developed a series of immigrant issue instructional modules entitled "Tierra de Oportunidad" for orientation to our complex society.**

---

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **Module 29**

### **Becoming A Citizen**

#### **Instructions:**

Work alone, in pairs or in small groups. Each person should complete this form.

Background: An acquaintance, named Federico, asks your advice. Fred, as he is called by his North American friends, has a family member who is 45 years old and has lived in the U.S. for 10 years, and is considering whether or not to try to become a citizen.

#### **Advice for Fred:**

1. List four good reasons for becoming a U.S. citizen.
2. List one or two reasons not to apply for citizenship.
3. Once Fred's relative is a citizen, will anything change that affects what he can do, what he gets for pay, or how he relates to his supervisor, on the job site? What?
4. What about at school, for that family member's children? Will anything change for the children—one is in elementary school and one is about to go to college? What?
5. What about in the community, as they go about their life on a daily basis will anything change because they are a citizen? What?

#### **Background:**

**Now Fred is asking you whether his family member will qualify for citizenship? Please answer the questions he asks:**

6. How many years does he have to be a lawful permanent resident before he can apply for citizenship? \_\_\_\_\_

7. In addition to the application and money, what two other things does Fred's family member need to send to the I.N.S. with their application for citizenship?

If a U.S. citizen retires to his native country, what percent of his or her social security benefits will he or she receive

8. If Fred becomes a citizen, will he be able to get Food Stamps or SSI, if he needs them?

\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

9. Did you benefit from your work on this module regarding any of the following:

	Yes/No	Please comment on either How you benefited; or Why you feel this module was not useful for you
a. who can apply for United States citizenship		
b. how to apply for United States citizenship		
c. the total cost of applying for citizenship		
d. who can apply for citizenship in their own native language		
e. how much English you have to speak, write and understand to apply for citizenship		
f. when it is not a good idea to apply for citizenship until you have seen an immigration lawyer or asked advice of an immigration specialist		
g. how disabled persons can apply for citizenship		
h. how children born in other countries or out of the U.S. can become citizens		
i. the rights and advantages of U.S. citizenship		
j. the responsibilities of U.S. citizens		

*Authors: Ed Kissam and Holda Dorsey*

*A project of the California Department of Education, Youth, Adult and Alternative Educational*

*Services Division, funded by contract #4213 of the Federal P.L. 100-297, Section 353 with California State University Institute and Hacienda LaPuente USD. However, the content does not necessarily reflect the position of that unit or of the U.S. Office of Education. 1997*