

English for Citizenship, Suggested Activities

With their tutors, students will practice the reading, writing and speaking skills needed to pass the USCIS interview for naturalization. Practice for the speaking test is based on the questions in the N-400 application form. Practice for the civics, reading and writing tests is integrated throughout the *Passing the Test* textbook by Lynne Weintraub.

SPEAKING (TALKING ABOUT YOUR APPLICATION)

- Check out the *Ready for the Interview* textbook in the ESL library for targeted N-400 practice!
- Do fill-in-the-blank listening practice of dialogues between the Officer and the Interviewee.
- You and your student can practice reading dialogues between the Officer and Interviewee.
- You and your student can write their own dialogues between the Officer and Interviewee.
- Use flashcards to review the yes/no questions in N-400 part 11.
- Conduct mock interviews, starting with particular section(s) of the N-400 and working up to using all of the questions from the form.
- Vocabulary review games, such as the following:
 - Memory
 - Crosswords
 - Matching
 - BINGO

CIVICS (TALKING ABOUT THE USA)

- Talk about the key words from each chapter in different contexts to boost comprehension.
- Use flashcards to review civics questions.
- Elimination drill: Put questions/answers on the board and ask the student to read aloud.
Erase/eliminate some words and ask the student to read again, filling in the missing words.
Erase more words and repeat, etc.
- Create timelines of dates and/or events to help the student remember context.
- Create picture profiles for important people with information about their accomplishments.
- Create mind maps together to help students contextualize civics information visually.
- Vocabulary review games, such as the following:
 - Memory
 - Crosswords
 - Matching
 - BINGO



READING

- Popcorn reading: start by reading a sentence, then ask your student to read the next sentence, then you read the third sentence, etc.
- Back-to-Back: You and your student each have a text. Your text is missing some words and your student's text is missing different words. You must read the text together and each fill in the words that the other has.
- Talk about the 5Ws. Practice the correct pronunciation of each and connect to its meaning.
 - Example: Play *iMatamoscas!* with only the 5W words on the table/wall. Read full questions and ask the student to tap the correct 5W word (bonus points if they can write the answer!)
- Reading games, such as the following:
 - Word Search: Race your student! Start the activity by setting a piece of graph paper in front of each of you. Explain that you will each write the spelling words in the grid and then fill in the remaining boxes with random letters. Then switch with your student and see who can find all of the words first. You may want to set up a word bank or boundaries for the grid, depending on the level of your student.
 - Go Fish: A new twist on an old classic! Make a deck of cards with the reading vocabulary words you wish to practice (4 cards for each word). You or the student must get all four words in a hand to have a match.
 - List BINGO: Tell the student to choose 10 random words (both content and function!) from a specific list (provided by you) and write them down. Read out questions in a random order. When the student hears their words they cross them off. You can try timing the exercise to increase the stakes!



WRITING

- Do dictation exercises using the words from the USCIS Writing Vocabulary List. Start with words and work up to sentences.
- Recorder-Writer: Ask your student to answer a specific civics prompt (ex: What was the Civil War? Who fought in it? Why did it happen?). Record their spoken answer using a smart phone or other device. Play the answer back to your student and ask him/her to write down the answer verbatim. Then you can correct it together.
- Reporter-Writer: Post some texts (sentence – short paragraph) outside the tutoring space. Your student must find the text, read it (possibly more than once), and remember what it says. Once your student is ready, s/he must write it down word-for-word back in the tutoring space.
- Spelling games, such as the following:
 - Find the Vowels: Create a set of go fish cards using spelling words. For each spelling word, write the word on one card *without* the vowels (ex: H—D). On the other card, write the vowels that complete the word (ex: EA). You and your student play go fish by matching the spelling word with the vowels it needs to be complete. You can add cards to the set as you add more spelling words throughout the semester.
 - Free Form Scrabble: Working from a specific vocabulary list, challenge your student to help you fit all of the spelling words on a Scrabble game board. Each word must connect with one of the other words, and you only have the letter tiles that came in the game.
 - Invisible Man: A new name for an old classic—Invisible Man is the same principle as hangman. Use spelling words from your list; the goal is to keep the invisible man invisible. You and your student can change roles or teams after each word.
 - Unscrambled Eggs: This activity requires 6-10 plastic eggs. For each egg, put in letters to spell a vocabulary word (use letter tiles, plastic letters or hand-written paper tiles) and shake to mix. You can time your student or set a time limit to increase the stakes!

