



CITIZEN:
**THE MOST IMPORTANT TITLE IN
AMERICAN DEMOCRACY**

TED Talk by Chris Hand
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TALK IT OUT

Before watching the video at the link below, the host of the conversation should introduce the video as one perspective on the role of citizens in a democracy. Before asking the sample dialogue questions below, participants should review the **Group Norms for Dialogue** document at crossroads.ua.edu to make sure everyone has the same expectations for the conversation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9IUkpxy1rs>

- What are your associations with the term "citizen"?
- What traits, characteristics, or actions would you say make someone a "good" citizen?
- Who or what has shaped your understanding of the *role* of a citizen?
- Who will share a story about a time when you experienced democracy as a *participant*, rather than a spectator?
- What hesitations or fears do you have about becoming a more engaged citizen?
- After reviewing the stories about average citizens getting involved and creating positive change, what did you find interesting or inspiring?