

Name _____



Citizen Soldier Connection

Directions: Read the following concepts regarding military service and civil society. Answer the reflective questions to explore the relationship between **veterans** and the rights you exercise as a citizen.

The Social Contract

In a democratic society, there is an unwritten agreement: the government protects the rights of the people, and the people fulfill certain **civic responsibilities**. For veterans, this responsibility involved physical service in the Armed Forces to defend the U.S. Constitution.

Section 1: Rights and Protections

- The First Amendment protects your right to free speech and peaceful assembly. How does the existence of a professional military, made up of **veterans**, help ensure these rights remain secure from outside threats?
- Military service is often described as a **selfless** act. In your own words, explain why a person might choose to risk their safety to protect the rights of strangers.

Section 2: Beyond the Uniform

When service members leave the military, they become **civilian veterans**. They often continue to serve their communities as teachers, police officers, or volunteers.

- How does the leadership and discipline learned in the military benefit a local community when a veteran returns to **civilian life**?
- Some people believe that every citizen has a **civic duty** to serve their country in some way, whether through the military, community service, or voting. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Section 3: The Meaning of Honor

Veterans Day is more than just a day off from school. It is a time for **civic reflection**. What is one specific action you can take to show that you value the sacrifices made by those who served?