

# SIRS Interactive Citizenship Product Reviews

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### ***QUOTES FROM ARTHUR ANDERSON ON SIRS INTERACTIVE CITIZENSHIP: WHAT CITIZENS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WORLD AFFAIRS (June 2002)***

*SIRS Interactive Citizenship: What Citizens Need to Know About World Affairs*, published by SIRS Publishing, is a cutting-edge development in curriculum reform for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This interactive electronic book based on National Standards for World History and the National Geography Standards, effectively captures the learner's attention and interest.

The content is appropriately organized to equip students with the knowledge constructs that are applicable to the resolution of real life circumstances encountered in the global community. The electronic context allows for timely updates of information and provides for historic accuracy and contemporary relevance.

SIRS has accomplished a major success in providing citizens with what they need to know about World Affairs.

**Arthur W. Anderson, Ph.D.**  
**Professor of Education, Florida Atlantic University**  
**Former Assistant Dean, Florida Atlantic University**  
**Past Member & Chairman, Palm Beach County School Board, FL**

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**INFOTECH REVIEW: *What Citizens Need to Know About Government (SIRS Interactive Citizenship Series)*. SIRS Publishing, Inc., [www.sirs.com](http://www.sirs.com), 800/232-7477. \$500 per site; \$250 for *Researcher* customers. Date Searched: May, 2002 Updated: Daily. [9-12, SS]**

This HTML- and PDF-based resource helps students understand the form and function of government, as well as their responsibilities in perpetuating our democracy. Following the traditional textbook format, the database is organized into chapters with an index and table of contents. The electronic nature of this text, however, allows for extensive hyperlinking of important terms, events, and ideas. Additionally, when utilizing the HTML version of the text, students can access a list of related articles and Internet sites at the end of each chapter. The PDF version allows students to work offline and to underline text and add margin notes. Inquiry and Discovery activities at the end of each chapter can be e-mailed to the teacher, and can form the basis for portfolio assessment. A toolbar on each page includes a glossary, access to a printable version of the chapter, and e-mail capability. Basic and advanced searches can be performed across a range of SIRS subscription databases to augment chapter readings; articles in these databases can also be accessed through hyperlinked subject headings found in the Topic Browse section. The PDF Educator's Guide contains Key Concepts and Terms used in each chapter, Generalizations about the content, Analytical Questions to guide exploration, a Key Problem to challenge students to apply new knowledge, and a selection of extension activities.

The guide also contains chapter correlations to state and national standards and suggestions for evaluation. **Weaknesses:** The Inquiry and Discovery activities are identical throughout the book; activities tailored to the content of individual chapters would be more likely to engage student interest. **Strengths:** The hyperlinking of terms in the chapters is an extremely effective use of HTML; for instance, students may immediately view the *Code of Hammurabi* when that document is referenced. Additionally, seamless integration of the textbook with current articles from the SIRS databases makes the connection between the classroom and the real world more apparent to students. **Uses:** *What Citizens Need to Know About Government* would make an excellent online primary text for civics courses; however, in an environment less rich in technology, it also could be used as an ancillary text.

**Keywords:** democracy, primary sources, civics, government

**Subject Areas:** Social Studies

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I have found SIRS IC-Economics on-line text to be the most effective economics content for my high school classes. The IC-Econ text offers what few others do; it covers economics fundamentals effectively, efficiently, and is current. My students read the text at home and in-class because it is well written and concise, it offers what a hardbound text can't, current economics reference. The application economic principles changes daily; the world economy is always changing.

To maintain relevance, economic fundamental principles must have a real-time application. Only IC-Economics does this. Best of all, students don't have to lug around a five-pound monster text, they access at home or the teacher can easily copy the day's reading for class.

IC-Economics gives the teacher enormous possibility to offer the students real-time application of the ideas covered in the text. Students can investigate interesting, relevant and authoritative links from within the online text."

Break the mold, move from the instantly out-of-date hardbound econ text and more to the readable and relevant IC-Economics text from SIRS. I'm glad I did because my students are meeting our economics state standards more quickly and it's sticking in their long-term leaning.

**George Thomson**  
**Teacher**  
**Nogales High School, Nogales, AZ**

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# TECHNOLOGY & LEARNING

**SIRS Interactive Citizenship**  
(SIRS Publishing, Inc.)

Consisting of three interactive online books that link to the SIRS Researcher database, this product offers a rich way for students to explore government, economics, and world affairs. Every chapter in each in-depth book provides dynamic links to full-text articles, charts, graphs, maps, and regularly updated Web sites—ensuring that the information is current and tied in with the news of the day. The judges found it easy to use, thorough, and accurate, with lots of helpful tips and tools for teachers and students alike.

Web-based. Price: \$1,500 site license; \$750 for subscribers to SIRS Researcher.  
(Grades 9–12)

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