

This lesson by the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education was made possible with funding by the Arizona Supreme Court.

**2025 Arizona Law Day
“Out of Many, One” Lesson Plan
Grades 9-12**

Objectives: Students will...

- ✓ Learn about the United States motto “Out of Many, One.”
- ✓ Explore the importance of civic virtues and their role in society.
- ✓ Identify how individual actions can contribute to improving their community

Materials:

- ✓ Whiteboard and marker
- ✓ Ball of yarn
- ✓ Civic Responsibilities Video Planning handout (1 per student)
- ✓ Filming tools (phones, Chromebooks, etc.)
- ✓ LawForKids Law Day Contest page: lawforkids.org/contests/az-law-day-contest

Preparation: Print the Civic Responsibilities Video Planning handouts. Gather remaining materials (ball of yarn and filming tools).

Timeframe: 55 Minutes

Part A: Motto and Civic Responsibilities Brainstorm

1. Write “E Pluribus Unum (Out of Many, One)” on the **whiteboard**. Let students know that this is the motto of the United States. Ask students to brainstorm what they think the motto means and discuss with a shoulder partner.
2. Call on a few students to share their ideas with the class.
3. Explain the meaning of the motto: Many different people come together to form one country.
4. Write the term “civic responsibilities” on the whiteboard. Explain that civic responsibilities are actions that individuals can take to help make their community or country better.
5. Ask students to think of some examples of civic responsibilities and have them discuss with a shoulder partner.

Part B: Yarn Web Activity

6. Instruct students to stand up and form one large circle.
7. Explain that students will share civic responsibilities or ways in which individuals can make their community a better place during a yarn web activity.
8. Explain the activity before starting:

- a. One student will start by holding the end of the **ball of yarn**. They will share one way in which a person can help make their community stronger.
 - b. The student who shared will toss the ball of yarn to another student while holding onto their piece of the yarn. Emphasize that students should hold on to their piece of yarn tightly but should not pull.
 - c. The next student holding the ball of yarn will share another idea, then pass the yarn to someone else, continuing to hold onto their piece. If needed, other students in the circle can help provide ideas to the student holding the ball of yarn.
 - d. Repeat until every student has shared and the yarn has connected everyone, forming a web.
9. Once the web is complete, ask the students to very lightly tug on their piece of the yarn web and notice how they can feel others tugging on it as well.
10. Remind students of the motto on the board, “Out of Many, One.” Explain that the yarn web represents how we are all individuals, but together we make up one community. Our actions, or civic responsibilities, have an impact on the whole group.

Part C: Civic Responsibilities Video Activity

11. Have students return to their seats and distribute a **Civic Responsibilities Video Planning handout** to each student.
12. Explain the assignment: Students will create a 60-90 second video answering the question: *How do civic responsibilities help build a successful community?* They should choose one of the following civic responsibilities: being informed, jury duty, reporting crimes, volunteering, or voting.
13. Allow students time to select a civic responsibility from the list and complete the video planning handout.
14. Debrief the lesson by reminding students of the idea “Out of Many, One” and how everyone plays a part in creating something strong. Ask a few volunteers to share which civic responsibility they selected and why they think it is important.
15. Allow students to film their videos during the following class period or assign it as homework.

**To enter student work into the 2025 Law Day Contest, visit lawforkids.org/contests/az-law-day-contest.*

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**2025 Arizona Law Day
“Out of Many, One” Lesson Plan
Grades 9-12 Standards Alignment**

Standards:

- ✓ HS.C1.1 Explain the significance of civic virtues to a well-functioning constitutional republic.
- ✓ HS.C1.2 Evaluate how society and political systems in different contexts promote civic virtue and democratic principles established by the founding documents.
- ✓ HS.C2.1 Explain the importance of individual participation in civic and political institutions.
- ✓ HS.C3.1 Examine how the United States Constitution established a system of government that has powers, responsibilities, and limits and analyze how those powers, responsibilities, and limits have changed over time.
- ✓ HS.C4.2 Evaluate local, state, national, and international policies in terms of intended and unintended outcomes and related consequences.
- ✓ HS.C4.6 Use disciplinary and interdisciplinary lenses to understand the characteristics and causes of local, regional, and global problems, instances of such problems in multiple contexts, and challenges and opportunities faced by those trying to address these problems over time and place.