

What Am I Promising?

When a person becomes a naturalized citizen of the United States, he or she makes promises by taking the Oath of Allegiance. That oath is printed below. Re-write it section by section to tell in your own words what this oath means.

Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America

"I hereby declare, on oath,

- that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen;
- that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic;
- that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;
- that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law;
- that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law;
- that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and
- that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God."

In other words . . .

(A SAMPLE PARAPHRASE)

"I hereby declare, on oath,

BY MAKING THIS PUBLIC STATEMENT, I PROMISE

- **that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen;**

THAT I GIVE UP MY LOYALTY TO ANY LEADER OR GOVERNMENT EXCEPT THE UNITED STATES,

- **that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic;**

**THAT I WILL STAND UP FOR THE U.S. CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES,
THAT I WILL PROTECT THE U.S. CONSTITUTION AND LAWS FROM ENEMIES AT HOME OR ABROAD,**

- **that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;**

THAT I BELIEVE IN AND WILL BE 100 PERCENT LOYAL TO THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES,

- **that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law;**

THAT I WILL GO TO WAR FOR THE UNITED STATES WHEN THE LAW REQUIRES ME TO DO SO,

- **that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law;**

THAT I WILL DO NON-FIGHTING WORK IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES WHEN THE LAW REQUIRES ME TO DO SO,

- **that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and**

THAT I WILL DO NON-MILITARY WORK THAT IS VALUABLE TO THE U.S.A. WHEN THE LAW REQUIRES ME TO DO SO.

- **that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God."**

NO THOUGHTS KEEP ME FROM WANTING TO BE AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. I AM NOT BECOMING AN AMERICAN CITIZEN FOR ANY DISHONEST REASON. AS GOD IS MY WITNESS, I MAKE THESE PROMISES AND ACCEPT THESE RESPONSIBILITIES WILLINGLY.

