

## Weighing the Pros and Cons

**Directions:** 1) Read and respond to the Prompts and Questions below to help you consider both the pros and cons of adding the citizenship question to the U.S. Census. 2) Then, be sure to review the source material (i.e., articles, essays, charts, etc.) provided during the previous lessons to support your pros and cons with evidence. 3) Finally, use the Weighing the Pros and Cons T-chart on the next page to list positive and negative aspects of adding the citizenship question to the U.S. Census.

### Prompts and Questions to Consider

1. What is the purpose of the U.S. Census as stated in the U.S. Constitution?
2. What instructions for carrying out the census are provided in the U.S. Constitution?
3. Why have some people objected to citizenship questions on the 2020 Census form?
4. Why do others support the citizenship questions being added?
5. How has the government responded to these concerns?
6. In your judgment, are these concerns justified?
7. Do you think the citizenship questions are “necessary and proper” ways for Congress to carry out its enumerated powers? Why or why not?
8. Why should confidential data be protected? When is this appropriate?
9. Should census data be shared more regularly? When is this appropriate?

**For your reference, the links to two additional primary sources are provided below.**

Secretary of the Commerce Wilbur Ross’ actual memorandum (Pros).

<https://calculators.io/memo-from-wilbur-ross-2018-03-26/>

Letter from a recognized Civil Rights organization citing their opposition (Cons)

<http://civilrightsdocs.info/pdf/policy/letters/2018/2018-01-04-VG-letter-to-Sec-Ross.pdf>

Refer to <https://www.procon.org/> for models of how to chart pros and cons on other issues with contrasting positions.

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*Adding the Citizenship Question*

<b>Pros</b>		<b>Cons</b>	
Claim/Argument	Source/Evidence	Claim/Argument	Source/Evidence

*Consider your pros and cons list above. Will there be more harm to California if the citizenship question is added to or left out of the U.S. Census?*