

“Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble...”

~ 1st Amendment, United States Constitution

Social Change Day

An 8th Grade Social Studies PBL Project



As we've learned from our study of the U.S. Constitution, every American has the freedom to speak their mind, to peacefully assemble, to protest, and to make their thoughts and feelings heard. Our nation has a rich history of average citizens — like you — standing up, and speaking out for what they believe in.

Now it's your turn ... it's time for you to take a stand on an issue that you care about. Now is the time to make your voice heard!

Working in small groups of 2-4 — or on your own — you will be creating a social change movement.

This project will culminate in the third annual 8th grade **SOCIAL CHANGE DAY**. On that day, you will be responsible for running a table to promote the cause that you have chosen.

The audience for Social Change Day will be comprised of teachers, students, parents, and the leaders of real world social change organizations. Social Change Day will take place on **Thursday, October 17th**.

It is essential that the cause which you and your group select is a cause that you truly believe in. Don't choose to work on a cause that you really don't care about.

Causes can cover a wide array of topics:

- animal rights
- politics & voting
- immigration
- free speech
- natural resources
- climate change
- gun control
- education
- privacy rights
- gender issues
- human rights
- drug policy
- family issues
- energy policy
- health care
- homelessness
- literacy
- law & justice
- environmental issues
- youth rights
- ocean plastics & marine pollution
- transportation
- gun rights
- freedom of religion
- poverty
- child abuse
- etc.

Your cause must be a real world problem, not something theoretical or fanciful like “unicorn liberation”.

Your teams can be comprised of any 8th grade students. You'll have two face-to-face meetings in Advise, but most of the work that you'll be doing will be conducted online using Google, and at home. See the back of this sheet for the project calendar.

“What's right and good doesn't come naturally. You have to stand up and fight for it - as if the cause depends on you, because it does.”

~ Bill Moyers