

Global Challenge Brief

Creative Activism 4 Social Justice

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Global Citizenship Challenge is to develop learners' skills, whilst providing opportunities to understand and respond appropriately to global issues. During the Global Citizenship Challenge learners will explicitly develop skills of Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Creativity and Innovation and Literacy and apply them in an appropriate manner.

BRIEF

“Art has added energy to advocacy – and it reaches people at deeper emotional levels, conveying what cannot be said with mere facts” Alternate.org

Activist art is when art expressions are aimed to raise awareness and bring about change in the world, from climate change to gender-based violence. Creative activism or ‘artivism’ can include everything from music, visual art, poetry and performance to animation, puppets and protest signs. It can be a powerful way to share messages of change with others, and with the help of digital media, these projects can be shared across the globe.

The Global Citizenship Challenge provides you with an opportunity to acquire knowledge and understanding of how **creative activism on social justice issues** are using art to support their projects across the world. You will develop and support particular arguments, viewpoints or perspectives on the different ways in which social justice has been addressed through creative activism to construct your own Personal Standpoint.

Focusing on one issue of your choice that connects to the theme of social justice (e.g. gender, race, sexuality, disability, poverty, violence etc.) you will then develop your own change-making project or campaign. This challenge will provide you with an opportunity to promote and share your campaign, on the AGENDA.WALES facebook page, and at the Summer 2018 Educating AGENDA conference, which will focus on equality, diversity and social justice.

You should communicate your message in a creative and innovative manner to engage and encourage the audience to think and act as global citizens. The skills that you develop in the Global Citizenship Challenge will give you the ability and confidence to be an active global citizen, ready to make a positive difference in the world.

KEY RESOURCE

Agenda: A Young People's Guide to Making Positive Relationships Matter,
www.agenda.wales.

This is an online toolkit developed with and for young people with links to organisations and websites that will assist you how the arts have been used in change-making campaigns in Wales and across the world.

Section 4 “Ideas for change” (p.20) provides 17 different creative ways to raise awareness of different issues.

Section 6 “Putting Your Agenda into Action” (p. 68-69) provides links to resources on how young people can start their own change-making campaign.

Section 7 “Remember remember” (p.72) provides over 20 different awareness raising days on a range of social justice issues, which students could use to link their own campaign to.

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Think pieces to spark ideas

Zebra's campaign

<https://www.millerargent.co.uk/2015/11/zebras-campaign-for-crossing-funds-gets-ffos-y-fran-green-light/>

and

<http://www.productivemargins.ac.uk/files/2016/01/Young-People-GIS-Mapping-and-Zebras.pdf>

Radical Brownies

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2017/jan/06/radical-brownies-documentary-berets-badges-and-social-justice>

and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7LCHtjqXoY>

Art, activism and our creative future

<https://theconversation.com/art-activism-and-our-creative-future-46185>

Creative communities embody a new kind of civic engagement

<https://theconversation.com/creative-communities-embody-a-new-kind-of-civic-engagement-37114>

The Ruler-skirt and other creative activisms to address gender justice and equality

<https://theconversation.com/children-are-leading-the-way-on-tackling-sexual-harassment-in-schools-73937>

and

<https://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2017/jan/20/schools-teachers-students-gender-feminism>

Lego activism

<https://theconversation.com/the-building-blocks-of-dissidence-chinese-artist-ai-weiwei-and-lego-49798>

Digital activism

<https://theconversation.com/slacktivism-vs-snarktivism-how-do-you-take-your-online-activism-13180>

16 Art Initiatives Saying No to Violence Against Women

<http://16days.thepixelproject.net/16-art-initiatives-say-no-to-vaw/>

How to create effective messages through the visual arts to raise awareness of gender-based violence, with examples across the world

<http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/369-create-effective-messages-and-materials-.html>

Vlogs and videos

The No Outsiders Classroom: An LGBT Critical Art Project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jy8ODDgSBF4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zdqlw3YfU4>

Panel discussion of artists talking about how their art advances social causes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9tKsek6Wlw>

10 minute video of young people from talking about how creative activism enables them to express many viewpoints and encompass a variety of art forms.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPmfCnn_yac

2 hour recorded evening discussion with artists and community activist talking about the role of art and culture in the struggle for racial justice in Britain

Stand Up and Fight Back: Tactics and Strategies for Effective Creative Activism (2 hour video)

<https://vimeo.com/212593357>

Websites

The Centre for Artistic Activism

“The Center for Artistic Activism is a place to explore, analyze, and strengthen connections between social activism and artistic practice”

<https://artisticactivism.org>

Beautiful Trouble

“Beautiful Trouble is a book, web toolbox and international network of artist-activist trainers whose mission is to make grassroots movements more creative and more effective”
www.beautifultrouble.org

The Ruckus Society

The website of a US collective who provide creative direct action training. The website has lots of useful resources including a guide to creative direct action.
www.ruckus.org

Actipedia

A fabulous database of creative activism around the world.
www.actipedia.org

Artivism

This climate change activist network provides examples of past creative activisms or “artivism” and lots of useful guides and resources, like how to make ‘reverse graffiti’
<http://art.350.org>

Additional Resource for teachers and students

Creative Activism, free online audio resource created by Coventry University (itunes)
<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/course/creative-activism/id514336364>