

# Get on the Bus

## Speaking Your Cause



*Grades* K – 5

*Objective* To identify a topic about which students feel strongly, express their opinion, and develop a call to action for others.

*Materials* Access to technology for online research  
Paper, magazines, scissors, glue, markers or a digital collage medium such as Publisher or Canva

### Background

More and more in recent years, youth are engaging in forms of activism, taking a stand on issues about which they feel passionate. Youth have important perspectives that can be missed when highly-charged issues are discussed solely from an adult lens. This lesson gives students the opportunity to explore and identify issues they have strong feelings about, then to take those feelings and translate them into art and action, both for themselves and others.

### Lesson Procedure

#### 1.) **Research/Brainstorm**

Using online resources or group discussions, generate a list of issues in your school or community, or more widely in the state, nation, or the world. Generate a list of issues or causes with a partner or a group. Briefly discuss the background and the perspectives on the issues as they arise.

*Possible examples include:*

- Climate change
- Animal adoption
- Bullying

#### 2.) **Defining Terms**

**Activism** - Taking action to address something about which you feel strongly.

**Call to Action** - Something such as a speech, piece of writing, visual image or act that encourages people to take action about a problem.

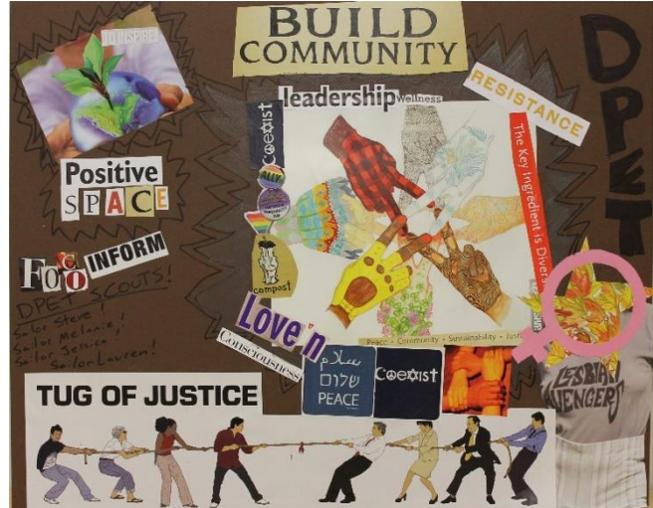
#### 3.) **Identify Your Cause**

Select one cause from the list about which you feel strongly. Consider the following questions as you identify your cause:

- Which topic are you interested in or curious about?
- Which topic do you have strong opinions or thoughts about?
- Which topic(s) do you have personal experience with?

#### 4.) Create Your Mood Board

Collect images that reflect the issue and how you feel about it. Consider ways to represent the issue through the visual art elements of color, shape, texture, and line. Then use your visual art materials or a digital collage program to create a collage that incorporates these elements. Here are some examples of mood boards created by students:



#### 5.) Develop a Call to Action

Identify a way in which others can engage or support on this issue. Turn this call to action into a sentence with a strong verb, and print it nicely to accompany the collage.

- Climate change – Reduce/reuse/recycle more items
- Animal adoption – Adopt pets from Humane Society or rescues rather than pet stores
- Bullying – Spread more kindness to others

#### 6.) Reflect

- What emotions did you experience while brainstorming/researching issues?
- Why did you choose the specific images in your collage? How are color, shape and texture featured in your collage?
- Explain how you came to choose your specific Call to Action? Were there other actions you considered?
- How might this process help inspire change for a person or community?

#### **Tips for at home application:**

1. Utilize a video chat app or video conference platform to do this lesson with others and/or share your mood board with friends. Post pictures of your mood board and tag Tacoma Arts Live.
2. Parents can create a mood board too! Each person in the house could choose their own issue and create their own mood board and call to action.