

Activism Assignment

6th Grade ELA - Assigned

What You Should Know

KSD is very purposeful in creating “change makers” out of our children. A challenge with this is that suggestions of *what to support as activists* are often very controversial. This concern has been expressed to the District but clarity on accountability in this area has not been provided. **This assignment is an example of where bias creeps in to the classroom.**

This assignment also includes several suggestions related to social media use that many parents do not condone for their 11- & 12-year-old children.

Method
2

Doing Online Activism

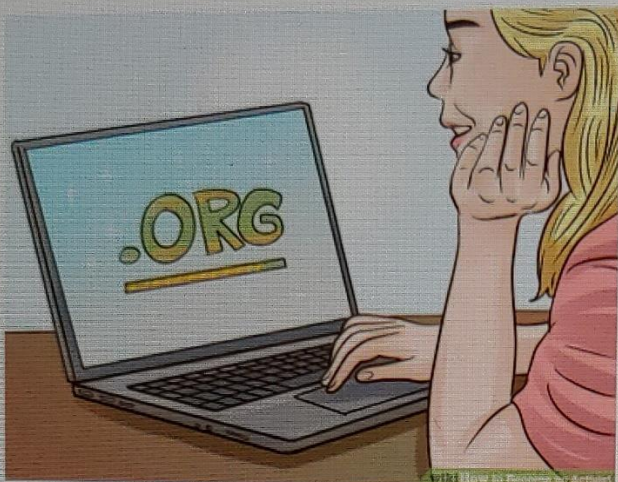


1 Promote your cause on social media. You can use social media to keep your friends and followers informed about the causes you support. Post informative articles, write about what you are doing to stay involved, and invite your friends to attend events or donate to fundraisers for your cause. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram -- each of the above is a good place to start.^[9]



2 Explain and provide evidence for your perspective. No matter your cause, from nuclear proliferation to gender identity and bathroom choices, you'll meet plenty of people online with differing views than yours. Some will never be persuaded no matter what evidence you provide, but others may be willing to listen to reasoned, thoughtful explanations.^[10]

actionable. You can, however, advocate for tougher emissions standards for vehicles and industries in your area.



3 Join (or start) an organization that supports your cause. If you share a passion for the same cause as many other activists, you can probably find one or many existing organizations to join. These could be anything from a student club to a national organization (like the American Civil Liberties Union or the National Organizers Alliance).^[4]

- Most activist organizations offer different levels of involvement, so you can do whatever you feel most comfortable with, whether that means attending meetings and demonstrations, making phone calls to your local representatives, or just donating a little money when you can.
- Or, you can set up your own activist organization, whether it be a recycling club at school or an anti-racism group online. It's okay to start small.

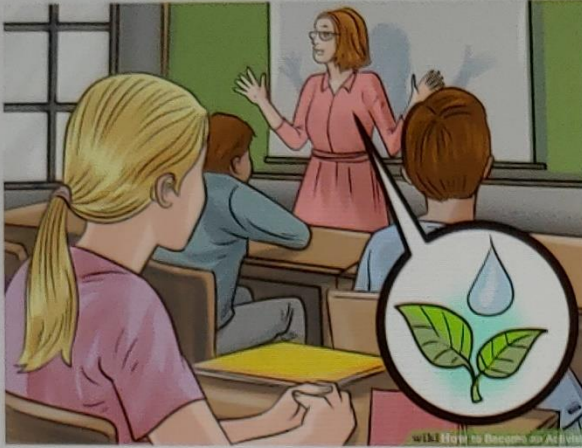


4 Volunteer your time. One of the best ways to make a difference is to donate your time to support your passion. Reach out to organizations in your community that do work for your cause, and ask how you can help.

- For example, if you are interested in supporting animals in need, try volunteering at your local animal shelter or wildlife rescue. There are many ways you could help, from caring for the animals to helping with fundraising events or writing content for the web.^[5]

publications for information about new developments related to your cause. If you are a member of a charitable or activist organization for your cause, then they may offer a regular newsletter or roundup of recent stories related to the cause.

- Keep in mind that not all sources are credible or reliable. Carefully evaluate any sources you read, especially on the internet, and be aware of the author's possible biases.^[15]



4 Take classes on issues related to your cause. If you are in high school or college, you may be able to sign up for classes that will help you understand your cause better. For example, if you are concerned about environmental issues, an environmental science class would be a good place to start.

- Taking a class can not only help you become more informed about your cause, but it can also help you connect to others who are interested in the same issues.
- Talk to your teacher or professor outside of class to get more ideas about how to get involved or educate yourself further.
- If you're not in school, or if your school doesn't offer courses that are helpful to you, you might be able to find a free or affordable online course related to your cause. For example, Smith College offers a free online course on Women's Activism through the edX website.^[16]



5 Listen to the people most affected. If you are interested in a cause that affects other people, then one of the best ways to understand how to help them is to listen to what they have to say. If you can't reach out to them in person, then try connecting to affected people and communities via social media, or read their stories in books or online.^[17]

- For example, if you are interested in helping with issues related to LGBT+ rights, speak to members of your local LGBT+ community about what kinds of issues matter the most to them, and what you can do to help. If your campus has a Gay-Straight Alliance club, that might be a good place to start.^[18]