



ARTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE & ACTIVITY K-12

Objective: To decide what Social justice issue impacts them deeply and create a piece of art to communicate their view.

- **What is Justice?** The act of fair treatment in regards to an issue. People getting what they deserve.
- *"Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public."* -Cornel West.
Ask the Young artists what this quote means to them. What does Justice look like? What are some examples of Justice?
- **For k-5th graders, Explain that social justice** approaches the idea that everyone deserves basic, equal human rights no matter their race, age, social class, educational background, gender or status in life. Explain that two bananas may look different on the outside but when you open each banana, they are both still bananas. They taste the same and are both yummy pieces of fruit. Just because they look different on the outside doesn't mean they should be treated differently. One banana shouldn't be treated better than the other banana because of the way that it looks. They both deserve the same equal treatment because they are both bananas and that is social justice.
- [What is Social Justice?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QojPDIEWL9Y) Click on this link if students are in K-5.
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QojPDIEWL9Y>)
- [Social Justice](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcWZZeXOegw) Click on this link if young artists are in 5-12th grade and have Young Artists share their thoughts on what they believe social justice looks like in their community. Ask them what they think Social Justice means to them.
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcWZZeXOegw>)
- **For 5-12th graders Explain that social justice** approaches the idea that everyone deserves basic, equal human rights no matter their race, age, social class, educational background, gender or status in life. We all deserve love and the same treatment.



- **Quickly explain that some examples of Social Justice issues are:**
 1. **Voting rights** (All human beings having the right to vote for political, social or economical issues)
 2. **Climate justice** (Treating the planet with love and fairness and respect and honoring that climate change is a political (governmental) issue)
 3. **Healthcare** (The ability to provide medical care to communities around the world)
 4. **Refugee crisis** (The harsh realities of the humans who are forced to leave their homes and seek safety in other countries or communities)
 5. **Racial Injustice** (the unfair treatment of human beings based strictly on their race)
 6. **Income Gap or Economic inequality** (People getting paid different amounts of money for the same work based on their age, gender, class or race)
 7. **Gun Violence** (Voluntary or involuntary use of a gun to commit a violent act. The fight for justice relating to the purchasing and freedoms associated with guns usage)
 8. **Hunger and food insecurity** (The harsh reality of humans not being able to afford food based on a lack of jobs, resources, land and money.)

- Ask young artists what they think art is. What comes to mind when you think of art? What are some examples of art? In what ways can art and social justice work together to communicate an idea?

- **Using the table below:** Have the young artists choose two numbers. The first number will be for choosing an art form, the second for a social justice issue. Use the table below to choose a pairing based on those numbers. Share the pairing with the young artists and have them discuss ways that those two things can come together to send a message. (Example 3 and 8: Dance and Hunger- How could we use dance to communicate issues of hunger in our world?)

Numbers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Art form	Theatre	Painting	Dance	Music	Film	Fashion	Literature	Fashion
Social Justice Issue	Voting rights	Climate justice	Healthcare	Refugee Crisis	Racial injustice	Income Gap	Gun Violence	Hunger



COURAGE AND CREATIVITY ACTIVITY

- Young artists will use the table to choose a social justice issue and an art form to create a piece of work that they can share with their family or friends.
- K-5 young artists will draw a picture for their activity.

Time: 15 minutes to create

Numbers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Art form	Theatre	Painting	Dance	Music	Film	Fashion	Literature	Fashion
Social Justice Issue	Voting rights	Climate justice	Healthcare	Refugee Crisis	Racial injustice	Income Gap	Gun Violence	Hunger

Asia Mark
MYT Teaching Artist