



Engaging Students in Contemporary Issues and Civic Action Through Art

Civic and Social Responsibility

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Through this lesson, students will meet the following learning objectives:

- Think critically about social issues affecting them and their communities. Issues that have been explored in the past include: racism, sexism, homelessness, and stereotypes
- Explore how they have responsibility for others – people they care about, people in their communities, people they don't know, and society at large
- Use art to express their opinions and perspectives on social issues
- Explore opportunities to make a difference in addressing these social issues

youTHink lessons are aligned with California's Social Studies, Language Arts and Visual Arts standards.



Art Project Base: Cardboard Donation Box

This lesson is recommended as an introductory lesson, and is appropriate for students in grades 3 to 12.



Sample Student Art Project

THE YOUTHINK APPROACH

youTHink applies a critical pedagogy model that allows students to name, reflect and act on the major social issues confronting them.

Discussion: Students share their perspectives on social issues by interpreting works of social commentary art.

Art project: Students create their own art project expressing their opinions on a social issue they have chosen.

Presentation: Students teach each other about their chosen social issues by presenting their art projects to the rest of the class.

Postcard-writing: Students make a difference about their issues by writing postcards to select elected officials, community leaders or businesspeople.