

ADVOCACY PACKETS

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY IN ART

HOW TO ENGAGE K-12 STUDENTS IN SUSTAINABILITY
THROUGH THE USE OF CREATIVE PROJECTS

INTRODUCTION

As young individuals, we see environmental issues in our community and on the news and want to take action to protect our future. It can be difficult to know where to start or how to enact lasting change, but students around the globe are working to transform the world one step at a time - and so can you.

This series of advocacy packets, created by students for students, provides introductory knowledge on these ideas and concepts and walks you through steps on how to begin implementing change in your classroom, home or community. By using our voices and gathering support for these sustainable initiatives, we will change the world.

This specific packet will walk you through how to incorporate environmental advocacy into a K-12 art curriculum and how to share with others the importance of environmental learning in the classroom. This process will allow you to present your idea to influential stakeholders and explain the importance of environmental education in the visual arts by providing educational resources for teachers, students and the community. Additional resources can be found [here](#).

IMPORTANCE

When discussing conservation and sustainability, art is often overlooked as a way to spread awareness and encourage people to get involved in finding solutions to the issue of climate change. According to NASA, global temperatures are rising quickly, more droughts and heat waves will occur worldwide, hurricanes and tropical storms will become stronger and more intense than ever before, and sea levels will rise 1-8 feet by 2100, threatening coastal cities. Conservation and preservation can help to reverse the issue of climate change. If every human being works on reducing their carbon footprint, we can make a big impact in the fight against climate change. However, unless people are aware of these facts, they will not begin to take action to combat this problem.

Educating students from a young age about the dangers of climate change can help make more young people conscious of environmental issues and will encourage them to use their voices for good. Students need to start to develop an interest in this topic now, so they can expand their knowledge and build their awareness of climate change. For many, art can be a fun and creative way to become educated on this topic.

STAKEHOLDERS

Students



Having conversations with your fellow classmates is a great way for you to share your knowledge, collaborate with your peers, and gather support about how to include environmental sustainability and advocacy into your school's art program. Additionally, talking with your peers can help both you and your peers understand the significance of environmental awareness in your learning and education. You can create a petition about the importance of art and environmental education in a K-12 setting to demonstrate to your school's administration the support behind the initiative.

Clubs and Interest Groups

If you have an environmental club or an art club at your school, you can pitch your ideas to them. They can help support you through the process, mobilize your initiatives, get involved, and even help to educate the larger student body on this topic. Additionally, you can encourage these clubs to give presentations during assemblies to your school community, so other community members can learn about why your topic is significant and hear about your specific goals regarding incorporating environmental education into the arts. These clubs can not only educate students on the importance of this initiative, but also motivate students to get involved.



Administrators



Administrators at your school are among the most important stakeholders to have behind you throughout this process. It is important to keep in contact with your school administrators since they are the ones with the ability to approve or decline your suggested proposals or projects. To open the lines of communication with your school's administration early on in the process, you can email them using [this](#) email template outline. Additionally, you can set up time to meet with one of your school's administrators to discuss your ideas and walk them through your plan, so they have a better understanding of how to support you and your proposal.

Department Faculty

The art and science department faculties at your school can serve as an important resource in your journey to implement environmental elements into the art curriculum. You can collaborate with them to brainstorm ideas and find ways to creatively include environmental study in the arts. The teachers in these departments can also support you by trying to help you convince the school's administrators of the importance of this proposed plan.



IMPLEMENTATION

- 1** Collaborate with art faculty to design art lessons with themes that focus critical environmental issues worldwide, including conservation and sustainability.
- 2** Collaborate with art and science faculty to create lessons on artists who are making a difference by creating sustainable art, for example Norihiko Terayama or Choi Jeong Hwa.
- 3** Work with the art department to practice sustainability by reusing art supplies and materials and purchasing art materials that are environmentally conscious. You can find a selection of eco-friendly art supplies at this [link](#).
- 4** Create DIY Projects using found materials from the environment. You can look at the work of artist and designer Paul Busse for inspiration.
- 5** Host assemblies and presentations addressing why art is a fun and unique way to learn about the environment. These assemblies can educate members of your community on components of environmentalism and push students to create environmentally conscious art.

Reflect after each project. Consider the below questions:

- What was the purpose of this project?
- What did you learn from doing this project?
- How can the environment and art intersect and relate to one another?
- How did I implement the environment into my artwork?
- How did this project benefit me and my understanding of environmental conservation?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Follow this [link](#) to view additional resources and project ideas for your classroom, home, or community.



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