

Teachers' Notes

Vital Voters workshop: Your Voice Counts



Summary

The history of democracy includes tales of struggle and inequality, but also actions that ordinary people have taken to make the world a fairer place. In this workshop, after exploring People's History Museum's (PHM) galleries, young people are invited to take action on an issue that matters to them by creating their own campaign film. They learn about what it takes to make an effective campaign film before producing their own short films to be uploaded to PHM's website as part of our Vital Voters project.

[Vital Voters](#) is a project that harnesses the inspiration behind ideas worth fighting for, combining it with an exciting digital approach to engage young people with the power of democracy.

Suitable for

Year 5 to Year 11

National Curriculum links

Democracy, government and the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

Session itinerary

We recommend using PHM's [Your Voice Counts presentation](#) to prepare your group for the workshop.

- Arrival at museum. Self-guided tour of galleries looking at examples of campaigns and active citizenship. A quiz sheet has been prepared to focus young people's exploration of the galleries.
- Meet your facilitator and move to the Learning Studio. What makes an effective campaign film? Young people work in smaller groups, watching examples of films and identifying what makes them successful before reporting back to whole group.
- Explore what is meant by fake news and how campaigns can be used to bring about negative as well as positive change.
- Young people are given tips on how to get the most out of the animation app iMovie before working in their groups to storyboard their own campaign films.
- Young people record and edit their films adding titles, sound effects, clips and music and design a campaign logo. Review all films as a whole group and identify what worked well.

Post visit activity suggestion

- After the workshop, suitable films will be uploaded and available to view on [PHM's website](#).
- It is important that the young people see the influence their voice has had. For this reason, we recommend that you show the completed films to the rest of the school and arrange either a ballot for them to vote for their favourite film or petitions to sign to show their support of the individual campaigns. PHM would love for you to send any data from such activities to us as it will help evidence the wider impact of the Vital Voters project.

Objectives

- To explore how campaigns use persuasive techniques to inspire people to take action.
- To consider how campaigns can be used for negative as well as positive purposes.
- To develop creative and digital skills.
- To increase young people's sense that their voice and opinion counts.

Related resources

- **Film**

Website dedicated to using film as a classroom resource including film making:

<https://www.intofilm.org/>

- **Internet safety**

Advice for parents, guardians, young people and teachers about using the internet safely:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

- **Fake news** and critical literacy resources:

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/fake-news-and-critical-literacy-resources/>

- **The power of campaigns**

Presentation demonstrating how ordinary people have used campaigns to create change for the better. Compares campaigns against race inequality by 18th century abolitionist Olaudah Equiano and Doreen Lawrence, who sought justice for her murdered son Stephen in the 1990s:

<https://learning.parliament.uk/resources/inequality-in-the-uk/>

- **Democratic participation**

Information about how parliament works and how the electorate uses the vote to influence society:

<https://learning.parliament.uk/>