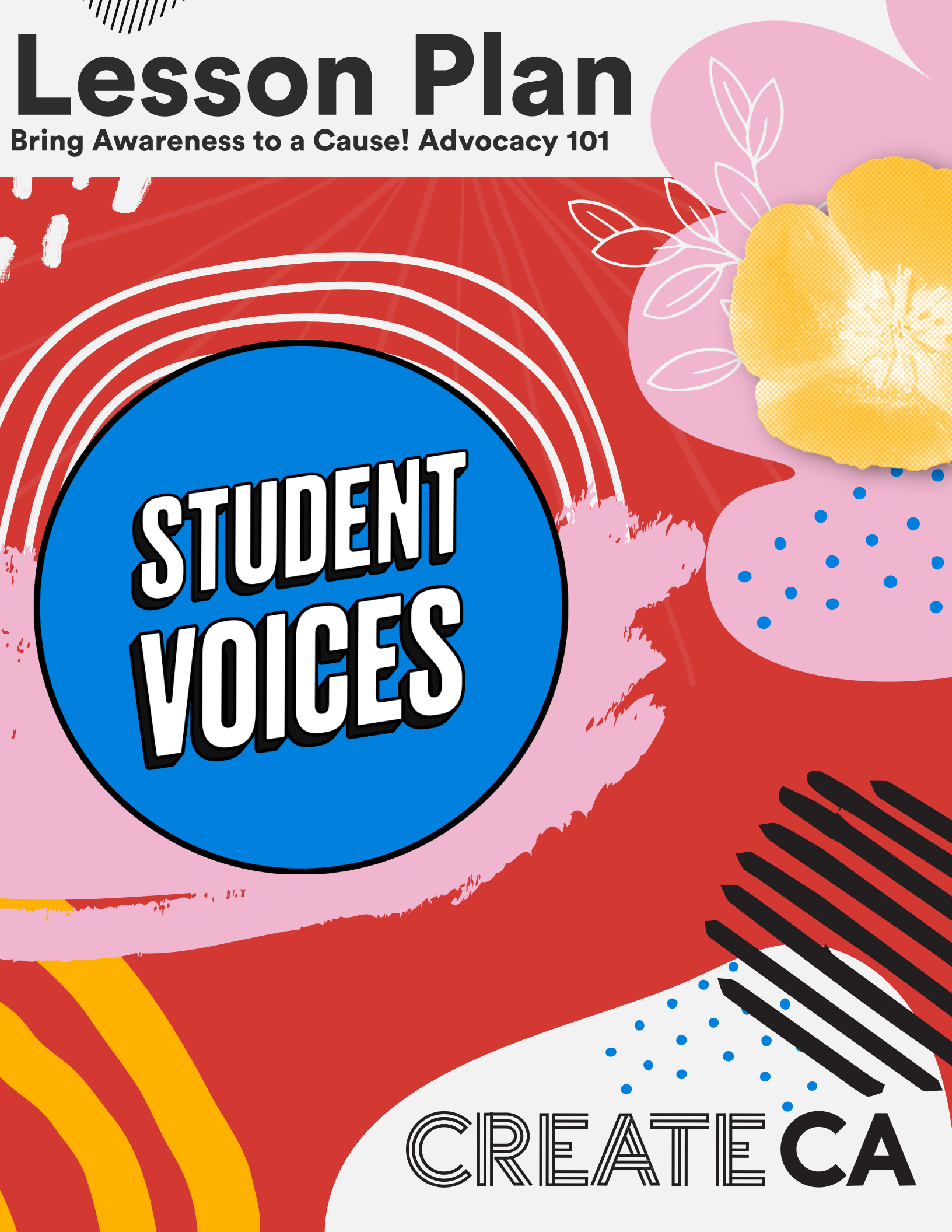


# Lesson Plan

Bring Awareness to a Cause! Advocacy 101

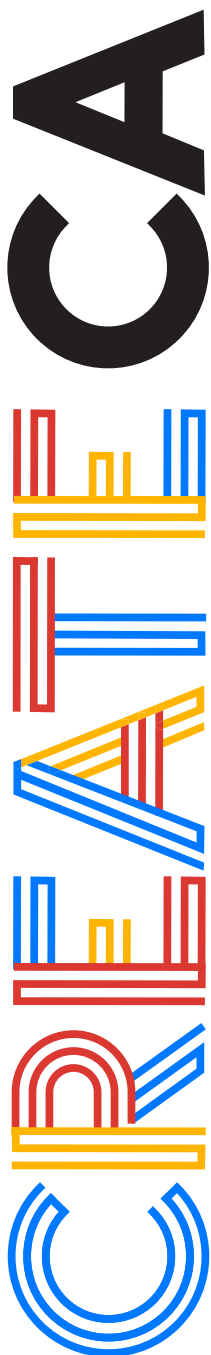


**STUDENT  
VOICES**

CREATE CA

# Speaking up

BRINGING AWARENESS TO A CAUSE!



## ABOUT CREATE CA

In 2021, Create CA and California Alliance for Arts Education (CAAE) merged to create California's largest organization working to ensure every student has access to a full and relevant arts education. Under the Create CA name, we advocate for high-quality arts education for all students by providing policy expertise and mobilizing a statewide network of advocates and allied partners.

Our goal is to increase public funding for, access to, and participation in arts education, regardless of zip code, race, gender, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.

Create CA recognizes that within the current education system, inequitable access to the arts is directly linked to racial inequities. Through our collective efforts, Create CA works toward dismantling structural racism in its varied forms and improving outcomes for all.

## WHY TEACH STUDENTS ABOUT ADVOCACY SPECIFICALLY FOR ARTS EDUCATION?

Create CA works to elevate the public understanding of the value of arts education. There are many reasons why this issue is urgent; students who take arts classes do better in other academic subjects, have better attendance rates, are less likely to drop out, more likely to graduate, and are more likely to pursue a professional career. Creativity is the #1 thing employers are looking for in all fields, and arts education is essential to our society's democratic culture and individual well-being. By developing advocacy skills through our Student Voices program, we empower students to be active participants in the movement for arts education.

This project gives students a creative way to share their vision for better schools and a more democratic society. By sharing the art created with their local school board, principals, and other leadership, we remind leaders who their decisions impact the most, and that students are speaking out!

# Speaking up

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## SUBMISSION PROCESS

Fill out the entry form, including any links to digital content created, and add a message from students to their school board leaders.

If submitting a video(s), upload the video to a hosting site like Vimeo or Youtube; please include that link in the submission form.

Administer the Publicity Release Form and have students return it with

## CAN I IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT IN MY CLASSROOM?

Any and all secondary teachers of all subject areas are encouraged to conduct this project in their classrooms. Each lesson plan can stand alone or be used with other lesson plans to build a large project to encompass a full unit's worth of content.

## TEACHING STANDARDS

Each lesson plan was designed within the framework of California State Common Core English Language Arts Anchor standards, National Core Arts Standards, National Core Media Arts Standards, and California History–Social Science Content Standards.

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Generous support for this project provided by Sony Pictures Entertainment and California Arts Council



# Speaking up

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## ADVOCACY 101

### OVERVIEW

Advocacy may seem intimidating, but anyone can create a movement! History has shown us that students are essential to progress in all acts of change. Learn what an advocate is and can be, and challenge yourself to create the beginnings of a movement that's important to you. Students will use critical thinking skills and collaboration to brainstorm the modern day slogan – a hashtag – a poster, and a school board speech advocating for arts education.

### OBJECTIVES

- » Students identify individual advocates and the qualities of an effective advocate
- » Students discuss social issues of personal importance
- » Students implement advocacy strategies to create actionable campaigns for arts education or other issues

“

The idea of adults and decision makers listening to a group of teenagers was like a fantasy or a daydream a couple of us had the guts to attempt. Well, we attempted, and unbelievably, we won.”

—Naudika Williams,  
Oakland High School,  
<http://caljustice.org/>



# Speaking up

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## IDENTIFY

### IDENTIFY

#### DISCUSS: WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

- » Have you ever “gotten involved” in a social cause or issue?
- » Have you, or someone you know, ever stood up for something you believe in?
- » Do you know of any causes that are going on right now?
- » Define what advocacy means to you and how it can impact your school, community, and world.

### 2022 STUDENT VOICES ED100 VIDEO



Learn about the Student Voices program and how student advocates are essential to California’s progress in obtaining arts education for all students.





# Speaking up

BRINGING AWARENESS TO A CAUSE!

SHARE &  
ANALYZE

## SHARE

### SHARE: WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF STUDENT ADVOCATES?

- » Californians for Justice: In 2014, students advocated for and won the right for students to have a voice in the formal process of developing their school district's Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). See Californians for Justice Action Guide here: <http://caljustice.org/tag/student-voice/>
- » Who do you know, or have heard/read about, who uses/used their voice to make things better?

## ANALYZE

### WAGON WHEEL: GROUP ACTIVITY

Have the class form two circles – one circle facing in and the other circle facing out. Everyone should be standing in front of a student in the other circle. Have the class identify who they are standing across from.

Do several rounds – each round is 3–5 minutes long. Both students should share their thoughts about the prompt questions below during the allotted time. At the end of each round, instruct either the inner or outer circle to move a specific number of spaces to the left or right. Students will have a new partner(s) for each round.



# Speaking up

BRINGING AWARENESS TO A CAUSE!

SHARE &  
ANALYZE

## QUESTIONS:

### ROUND 1

Share someone you know or admire that speaks up for a cause.

- » Who is it?
- » What do they advocate for?
- » How do they advocate?

### ROUND 3

Share a time you spoke up or a time you wish you had spoken up but remained silent.

- » How did it feel to speak up?
- » How did it feel to stay silent?

### ROUND 2

People advocate for causes differently – through politics, protests, visual art, music, movies, one-on-one conversations, online communication, etc. Share with your partner(s):

- » Which ways are most intriguing to you?
- » Which ways persuade you or make you care about a cause?
- » What forms of advocacy would you want to explore further?

### ROUND 4

Read the quote to your group:

**“Each person who identifies themselves or is identified as an advocate started by challenging something small (or maybe big) that they felt was unfair.”**

– *Teaching Advocacy in Your Classroom – Edutopia, Katie Schellenberg JD, MA*

Share with your partner(s) something unfair, big or small, that you would like to challenge or speak up about.

# Speaking up

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CREATE

## CREATE

Create an advocacy campaign that includes a school board speech, poster design, and social media hashtag, to inspire your peers to advocate for better arts education.

The school board speech should be no more than 2 minutes long and persuasive in style; this should encourage students, parents, and education leaders to commit to expanding access to arts education in their school.

## CREATIVITY CHALLENGE: THE STATE OF ARTS EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA, 2022



Learn about the state of arts Education in California based on the 2022 SRI Education study “Creativity Challenge,” and what you and school administrators can do to improve access to arts education



# Speaking up

BRINGING AWARENESS TO A CAUSE!

CREATE

Facts, figures, and talking points can be found at [CreateCA.org/get-the-facts/](https://CreateCA.org/get-the-facts/).

## Students with an arts education are:



5X

less likely to  
drop out of school



4X

more likely to be  
recognized for  
academic achievement



4X

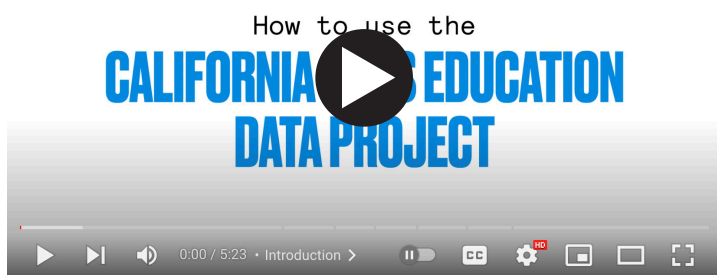
more likely to receive  
a bachelor's degree



30%

more inclined to  
pursue a  
professional career

## CALIFORNIA EDUCATION DATA PROJECT



Learn how to use Create CA's school data tool; additional facts, figures, and talking points can be found at [CreateCA.org/get-the-facts/](https://CreateCA.org/get-the-facts/).



The poster should be eye-catching and grab the attention of those less informed about the topic. The social media hashtag is a challenge to capture the essence of what arts education is about in as few words as possible.

# Speaking up

BRINGING AWARENESS TO A CAUSE!

## REFLECT

### REFLECT

#### JOURNAL WRITING: PRIVATE REFLECTION:

Think about speaking up and making your voice heard.

- » Have you ever used your voice to make things better? For an individual? For a group, cause, community? In big or little ways?
- » How do people make their needs and voices heard? Does it feel like there isn't a way for ordinary people, especially young people, to share what they need and what matters to them?
- » Where does it feel like your voice is heard and welcomed? Where does it feel like your voice is not heard, not welcomed? Can you think of a time you have spoken up in your life? Can you think of a time when you wanted to speak up but didn't? What stopped you from speaking? Why is it sometimes hard to speak up?
- » Who do you know, or have heard/read about, who uses/used their voice to make things better? You can reference some of the people you heard about in the wagon wheel exercise.

Share your work!

Tag us at

@Create\_CA | CreateCA.org

STUDENT  
VOICES

CREATE CA

# Share Your Story!

BRINGING AWARENESS TO A CAUSE!



SCHOOL  
ASSEMBLY



ADVOCACY  
EVENT



SUBMIT TO THE  
STUDENT VOICES  
CHALLENGE

**YOUR ART  
HERE!**



SOCIAL  
MEDIA



SCHOOL  
LEADERSHIP  
GROUPS

