

Pursue Justice

Grades 4–12

Objective

Students will identify and research a need in their community. They will then develop a collective plan of action to create positive change.

Materials — [Worksheets available on Google Slides](#)

- “Agents of Change” worksheets
- “Self-Reflection” worksheet (optional)

Class Activity

1. If you haven’t already, review the “[Welcome to the Skirball](#)” introduction, which features collection items that relate to this lesson, as well as information about the Skirball and its permanent exhibition, *Visions and Values: Jewish Life from Antiquity to America*.
2. Distribute the “Agents of Change” worksheets to students, individually or in groups, and discuss the idea of *tzedakah* (pronounced “suh-dah-kah,” the Hebrew term for “justice”).
3. Invite students to brainstorm and discuss issues they notice within their community and would like to change. These issues might include single-use plastics and their impact on the environment; the challenges faced by unhoused people; or the demands of public health professionals and essential workers during the pandemic.
4. Encourage students to select one cause and research the topic using a variety of sources. Ask them to find out who the local changemakers are within their community and share their discoveries with the class.
5. As a class, develop actionable ways to make change and contribute to *tzedakah*. Ideas may include writing and delivering a speech to their peers or school community; creating visual art to represent how to effect change, such as a video or public service announcement, mixed media art, or a protest banner; or writing to or calling local government officials.

Student Instructions

Use the “Agents of Change” worksheets to identify your personal strengths and use them to create a positive impact with and for your community!

Share Out

Present the final project to your school and local community.

Curriculum Connections

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA: SL.1, 3, 4, 5; W.7, 8, 9

California Arts Standards: VA:Cr1.1, VA:Cr2.1, VA:Cn10

Resources

[Check out this virtual map](#) to identify local community partners or organizations in Los Angeles County that are making a difference. Explore their available educational resources or reach out to them to find out how you and your class can support their mission.

Get to know inspiring young changemakers from around the world by reading **Amnesty International's** ["Ten Young Activists Shaping the World They Want."](#)

See student storytellers in action. Explore the projects of the [Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes](#).

Learn more about the Jewish tradition and history of [tzedakah boxes](#) from the organization **My Jewish Learning**.

Connect with Us

Our educators are here to help! If you have questions about this curriculum or would like to share your students' writing or artwork with us, please email teacherprograms@skirball.org.