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# CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

## ELEMENTARY LEVEL

### Vow of Silence Campaign Activity

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#### Extension Activity

- **Purpose:** the purpose of this activity is to provide students with an outlet for action by engaging them in the Vow of Silence campaign.
- **Instructional method(s):** class discussion
- **Differentiated instruction:**
  - Students will be given the Halloween for Hunger How-To Guide and discuss campaign ideas in groups.
- **Estimated time:** 25-30 minutes
- **Steps:**
  1. Ask students to reflect on all they have learned throughout the lesson. Explain to them that it is easy to feel helpless when learning about issues such as children's rights because it is difficult to determine how you can help. Explain to them that Free The Children's Vow of Silence campaign is a call to action, a tangible way that they can stand in solidarity with their peers around the world who have not been granted their rights.
  2. Introduce the campaign by viewing the following videos:
    - An introduction to the campaign by Free The Children <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55RhNlztnc>
    - I am silent by Free The Children <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i89Nbe6pDKc>
    - A description of the campaign by musician and activist, Jason Mraz <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUv0WoAGWT4&feature=channel>
  3. Keeping in mind all they have learned throughout the course of the lesson, ask students the following questions:
    - Why is this campaign important?
    - What are the goals of this campaign?
    - What are the steps to take to participate in this campaign?
    - Why is November 19<sup>th</sup> a good date to hold such a campaign?
  4. On the board, write the title "Communication".
  5. Ask the students to list all of the ways they communicate (e.g.: by speaking, by sending text messages, etc.) and record their responses on the board.
  6. Now go down the list and ask the students if they use each of the items in their daily life and if so, how? Record answers on the board.
  7. Tell students to think back to all they have learned about children's rights during the course of the lesson, ask:
    - How would you feel if you were unable to use all of these forms of communication? How would this affect your day?
    - There are thousands of children around the world who have been silenced by not having their rights upheld, if you were to protest this by going silent yourself and restricting yourself from using any of these communication outlets, what kind of a message would that send to your peers?



- What impact will your actions have on the school and the community?
8. Move the discussion onto the logistics of the campaign by asking the following questions:
- How can we receive the best results on the day of the campaign?
  - How can we achieve the best fundraising results for this campaign?
  - What can we do around the school to raise awareness?
  - What can we do around our community to raise awareness?
  - How can we get more people involved in the campaign?
  - What can we do on the days leading up to the campaign and on the day of the campaign to raise the most awareness?
9. Go over the How-To Guide with the students to determine an action plan.

*Teacher Note: discuss costumes, signs, things that will unify everyone partaking in the Vow, events during the day etc.*