



CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

SECONDARY LEVEL

Not Just Little Adults

- **Purpose:**the purpose of this activity is for students to become familiar with international human rights documents and the unique rights of children.
- **Instructional method(s):**class discussion
- **Differentiated instruction:**
 - Students will create an illustration of children's rights instead of writing a reflection.
 - Divide the class into pairs. Instead of writing a reflection, each pair will take a side and they will argue together.
- **Estimated time:**15-20 minutes
- **Steps:**
 1. Go deeper in your discussion on human rights. Ask students the following questions:
 - Have you ever heard of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? What is it?

Teacher Note: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was created in 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly. This document lists the essential rights for all human beings and sets the standard for how we should behave towards one another so that everyone's dignity and basic needs are respected.

- Why was this document created?
 - What are some of the rights found in this document? List examples on the board.
 - Can the rights in this document be applied to both adults and children? Is this fair?
2. Explain that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) was signed in 1989, after world leaders decided that childhood was unique and something that needed to be protected. The document was signed by countries all around the world, which means they have to uphold the rights set out within it. As such, children under the age of 18 have a special convention of their own. This convention lists all the rights that children have.
 3. Visit the topic of children's rights by asking the following questions:
 - Why do children need rights of their own?
 - Why is it important that adults respect these rights?
 - What rights do you think are included in this convention? Write suggestions on the board.
 4. Ask students to write a reflection addressing children's rights, in which they must argue for or against children having their own set of rights.
 5. Once complete, collect student reflections.

Stand up for children's rights by taking the Vow of Silence. Learn more about this empowering campaign at www.weday.com/takeaction.