

<b>Social Studies 11</b> <b>Democratic Citizenship</b>
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**Courage, my friends; 'tis not too late to build a better world. – Tommy Douglas**  
**We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone. – Ronald Reagan**

The above quotations were spoken by two of the most transformative political leaders in North America in the Twentieth Century. Both Tommy Douglas and Ronald Reagan believed in the power of individuals to change the world around them, and both exemplified this worldview in their actions as leaders of their respective jurisdictions. The power to impact our communities and change the direction of our world for the better does not rely solely in those who have political power or limitless sources of money to spend on a solution to the world's problems. Each of us has the power to become involved in our communities and make a difference in those we meet.

Whether we believe it or not, we are all connected to each other through our communities, and it is in those communities that the greatest impacts can be felt when an individual or small group decides to work towards a future that is better than the circumstances of the present. We are all connected, what matters is how we as citizens choose to interact in our communities.

## **Instructions**

1. Students will, either in small groups or as a class, decide on an issue within the community that you believe is worthy of your time and attention over the course of the year.
2. Your group will be responsible for identifying other advocacy groups and other key stakeholders important to your issue and decide on the best means of attracting support for the activities your group will create to raise awareness of the issue you have chosen.
3. Groups will be responsible for creating and executing a strategic plan to address the issue chosen. Within the strategic plan should be detailed plans of action to determine when each part of the project should be completed.
4. Students should be able to create a final goal for the project that includes a rationale for what the group believes will be accomplished with their achievement. This does not have to refer to a total amount of money raised for the charity or issue being discussed, and I encourage students to create goals that are not based on raising a certain amount of funds.
5. During each monthly meeting with the teacher, groups will be prepared to explain and provide evidence to support the actions of their group and documenting any successes or challenges the group has faced in addressing their social concern in the community
6. Groups should be having regular meetings outside of class to discuss their progress and shall have written reports documenting what is done and discussed in those meetings