

## Taking Action for a Clean Environment

### Final Assignment Instructions

In this lesson, you have learned about activism, the characteristics activists possess, and some of the tactics young people like yourself have used to influence others to support a cause. You will now have a chance to show what YOU might do as an activist.

Select one of these two assignments:

#### *Assignment 1: Get involved!*

1. Think of a problem that is affecting (or may one day affect) the health of your community and/or its environment. You may want to review the comments you made on Screen 4 of this lesson and choose one of those issues, or choose a new one. If you can't think of any, ask your teacher or classmates to share some ideas.
2. Next, identify the groups on each side of the problem: those creating the hazard and those most affected by it.
3. Summarize the problem. Write down a brief overview of the issue, researching if necessary for more information. Include how long it's been a matter of debate, and cite the primary public health and environmental risks. Also, research what, if anything, your elected officials have said on the matter.
4. Plan a campaign. Choose a side in the debate, identify the group, business, or institution you'd seek to persuade, and explain which tactics you'd use to convince them to support your cause. For example, decide whether you'd lobby local, state, or federal officials or make an appeal to consumers. You might describe the kinds of campaign materials you would create, learn what has worked well for others running similar campaigns, and consider other groups or interests with whom you could form an alliance. If you have a solution to the problem, outline your approach. If necessary, go back to your notes to review which types of activism worked in situations similar to the issue you are addressing.
5. Take action! If you feel strongly about this problem and can get involved, execute your plan and see if you can bring about the change you desire.

#### *Assignment 2: Interview/find out more about an activist*

1. Interview an activist in your community. If you cannot interview an activist directly, interview a family member or friend who may have known one well enough to describe the person and his or her work in detail. Or, if the activist is well known, do some on-line research to write a profile of this person.
2. Take notes about the activist's cause, what the activist did to support the cause, and the successes or failures he or she has experienced. Find out what inspired this individual to become an activist, the tactics he or she uses, and the personal characteristics or qualities that have served him or her well as an activist.
3. Share highlights of your interview or profile with the class.