

## Classroom Lesson - Malala Yousafzai

### What's this lesson about?

Students will learn about Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai, and how she used her voice and social medium\* to raise awareness and change the world. Students will then examine how other youth are using their voice and social medium to make change and catalyze local and global movements (Malala used her words and later her spoken voice as her social medium.) Through game play, students will explore how different types of social medium can be used to start grassroots efforts to create positive change.

### Learning Goals

- Students will understand that everyday tools such as social media, internet can be used to raise awareness and make change.
- Students will understand that freedom of speech can take many different forms, helping build confidence along the way.
- Students will explore how different social medium can be used to address a variety of causes through an Apples to Apples Style game

### Materials

- Lesson slides
- Internet with access to [Twitter](#) ([Greta Thunburg Twitter feed](#) or that of another youth activist of the educator's choice)
- Game Cards

**Time:** 50 minutes (can be split into two 25 minute lessons)

### Steps:

#### 1. Introduction (5 min)

- Ask students to take a few minutes to jot down their thoughts and responses to one of the following questions:
  - What does "freedom of speech" mean? Why is it important?
  - Can you think of individuals, present or past, who have used their voice or their words to contribute something important to society or help change the world for the better? Who comes to mind, and how did they use their voice or words to create change?

### Key Vocabulary

**Grassroots movement:** A movement that uses the people in a given district, region or community as the basis for a political or economic movement

**Social Media:** Social media are interactive technologies that facilitate the creation and sharing of information, ideas, interests, and other forms of expression

**Social Medium:** Social medium refers to a particular website or application, such as Facebook, Instagram, etc. Each of these platforms provides a social medium for social media.

**Freedom of speech:** the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, by any means.



## 2. Guided learning (20 min)

- Set the stage for what students will be learning today. Key points to mention are:
  - Malala used the power of her voice and the freedom of speech to raise awareness and create real change around girls' access to education
  - Students will think about the causes that matter most to each of them—in their community, country, or world, and explore how they can use social medium to raise awareness or create change to address this issue.
- Use the lesson slides to introduce Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai to students:
  - Ask students to turn to a classmate and share what they already know or want to know about Malala
  - Show students slides to introduce Malala Yousafzai: history, facts, and accomplishments
- Explain: Everyone has the opportunity to raise awareness and create change
  - What Malala accomplished and continues to accomplish, though phenomenal and historic, doesn't start or stop with her.
  - Each of us can use our words as a powerful tool to create change or raise awareness about a cause we care about. In fact, many young people today are doing just that. Take for example, Greta Thunburg.
- Project on a large screen (or take screenshots and print as handouts) Greta Thunburg's Twitter feed \*(alternate option)
  - Ask students:
    - What is this? (Twitter feed, social media, words, pictures, posts...)
    - Who is this? (Greta Thunburg, climate and environmental activist)
    - What cause is Greta most passionate about and taking action on? (climate crisis, the environment, saving our planet from the damage caused by humankind...)
    - (Optional) What tools or skills did Greta Thunburg use to help catalyze and create global change to help save our environment?

**\*Alternate option:**  
show [Amanda Gorman's TED Talk](#) and ask students question 3 under Think: "What are the 3 ways that poetry is political?"



**Educator Note:**

If you are planning to break this lesson into two, stop here and pick up in your next lesson with Part 3: Game Time!

**3. Game Time! (20 min)**

- In groups of 4-5, students play an Apples-to-Apples style game in which they rapidly brainstorm small grassroots movement ideas that target a series of provided issues.

**Game Setup**

1. Each group receives game cards: Cause Cards and Social Medium Cards. Some will be filled in, and others will be blank to allow students to create their own Cause Cards and Social Medium Cards.
  - a. As an alternative to printing and distributing game cards, give students index cards and share a list (see page 3) of Causes and Social Medium, asking each group to write down one cause per index card (Cause Cards) and one social medium per index card (Social Medium Cards)
2. Shuffle the cards and place them face down in the middle
3. Each player is dealt 4 Social Medium cards

**How to Play**

1. The judge (a chosen player) draws a Cause Card and places it face-up on the table for everybody to see.
2. Each player (except the judge) chooses a Social Medium Card from their hand that they think is the best medium to use to create a grassroots movement for that specific cause
3. One player places a card down at a time. After placing down a card, that player must share their idea for how they would use that medium to create awareness or some sort of movement or change around that specific issue
4. After every player has placed down their Social Medium Card and made their case, the judge decides which idea they like best.
5. The player who submitted the chosen Social Medium Card wins the round, and takes the Social Medium card to signify the win.
6. The role of "judge" passes to the player who won the previous round.

**How to Win**

The winner is the player who has accumulated the highest number of Social Medium cards when the game is over.



#### 4. Share and reflect (5 min)

- Ask students to reflect on or discuss one of the following questions:
  - If you could send one Tweet about a cause that is important to you that everyone in the world would read, what would it be?
  - Optional challenge: A Tweet is limited to 280 characters (letters, punctuation, and spaces included). Can you write down your message in the form of a Tweet of 280 characters or less?

#### Teacher Resources:

Article: [12 Ways to Use Social Media for Education](#)

Article: [11 Teens Using Social Media for Good Deeds](#)

Article: [Greta Thunburg: Who is the climate campaigner and what are her aims?](#)

Article for students: [What Malala Taught Me](#)

#### Lesson Extensions:

TED-Ed lessons (short animations with ready-to-use learning materials)

- [How to turn protest into powerful change](#)
- [What are the universal human rights?](#)
- [Using your voice is a political choice—Amanda Gorman](#)
- [Let's make history by recording it—StoryCorps](#)



