

The World As It Could Be Is Within Reach
Arroyo High School 2017-18 Class
May 30, 2018 Rite of Passage Presentation

Theme: Know your rights to unite for what's right!

Opening:

Each person comes out on stage staggered in 10 second increments looking all over for something they've lost moving about the stage with varying heights expressing concern and urgency without speaking. Remember to imagine losing your cell phone and the worry you would feel to emphasize this.

Then one at a time come forward with a question or statement about their rights: Where are my rights? Who took them? What happened to them? They belong to us! Give them back now! We need them!

Alexis stands and responds from the audience: I have your rights! Here they are! (holding a copy of the UDHR) then Alexis enters stage from left showing them the book and asking "Was this what you were looking for?" and the others reply "Yes!"

After Alexis is on stage, the rest crowd around Hanen and Thi kneel down in front and the other four two left and two right gesturing towards Alexis with UDHR with arms more raised in awe of this book and **they say adamantly Yes!**.

Alexis: This is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It has all the rights that belong to human beings regardless of who you are, where you're from, what you look like or what you believe. These rights belong to us!

Everyone repeats and chants together passionately: These rights belong to us! These rights belong to us! These rights belong to us!

After the third stomp left, right, left, right, left, right and clap rhythmically as they repeat: These rights belong to us! These rights belong to us! These rights belong to us!

Alexis addresses audience: How many of you know about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? Do you *really* know your rights? (After a longer pause) Know your rights to unite for what's right!

All in unison: Know your rights to unite for what's right!, Know your rights to unite for what's right!, Know your rights to unite for what's right!

#1 Estefany R.

Article 9--No arrest w/out just cause

Article 10--Right to a fair trial

Article 11--Innocent until proven guilty

Estefany introduces video:

It is a valuable right to each and every one of us to feel justice even with inside of a courtroom. However many individual aren't provided with a fair and equal trial. Even today we continue to live under the existence of stereotyping in our local prisons. The truth is that outside these walls youth are exposed to the "Criminogenic factors" that strongly impacts the trust they may have in the criminal justice system.

It has become a stigma for people of color to commonly attend jury and to be assist with a penalty for a bad cause that was done than to be present inside educational fields. Four years ago Santa Rita Jail ethnic population consisted of 55% African American and 29.9% Latino even when the Alameda County Adult population of African American was only 12.3% and 19.9% Latinos.

Living in Oakland led me to realize that from a early age that racial discrimination does exist and it continues to grow in our law enforcement and the justice system. Exterior aspects have forced individuals to be victims of racial bias since the years of the Jim Crow Laws and now with Police Brutality & the Black Lives Matter movement. This means that stereotypes have become much more important than character, yet in a world that pushes one to commit adversities to survive, doesn't hold open doors for opportunities but creates more obstacles. This is compared to a person who does has more freedom or choose a path that can lead them to success and out of prison.

Therefore I'm inspired to share this video I created with research to reflect how our contribution to obtain justice can make a real change.

(<https://youtu.be/SQ6H-Mz6hgw>) a youtube video I believe we should consider to watch.

#2 Thi

Article 16--Right to marry

I think that love is pretty important in our lives and we shouldn't take advantage of that.

Everyone has the right to marry so it is very important. I've been thinking about what to say. I'm going to do poetry. That's my idea.

Love Is Like Life.

It's Full Of Ups And Downs.

Love Is In Many Things, In Someone Or Yourself.

Love In Someone Is Something To Fight For.

Your Lover, Your Choice.

Marriage Should Not Be Taken For Granted.

Article 16: Everyone has the right to marry.

Marriage is for everyone no matter who you are.

Love a person, then don't let them go-hold on tightly.

Don't let go if feelings are true.

When It Comes To Love Don't Let Go.

#3 Hanen

Article 2-- Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this declaration, of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, property, birth or other status.

I chose that because I want to talk about religion, race, color, and sex.

The group moves positions to discrimination and judging others--a group surrounding one person taking stances of aggression

I wish no one would judge anyone for their race

I wish no one would judge anyone for their language.

I wish no one would judge anyone for their religion.

But still we judge

We judge because of fear and prejudice

WE ARE ALL HUMAN! (group begins to move picking up the one who was excluded forming a circle holding hands to represent unity around Hanen)

Please tell me what's the point of judging other people on how they look or who they are,
Were all different but we're all equal,

We all believe in different things and that's not wrong because everyone has the freedom to live, to be free, and to feel safe.

#4 Emma

Article 18--Freedom of thought and expression

I'm focusing specifically on the part of freedom of thought, because I want to express how valid it is to not always find the "box" you're supposed to fit into. You can place yourself wherever you need to be because it is your own thinking. I created a poem that expresses all of this.

Where do you go when there is no destination
When the boxes you're supposed to fit into have everyone else's name on them but yours
When you're too sensitive to make the first move
But have too many rough edges to be warm enough
When you've liked too many boys to like girls
And liked too many girls to like boys
When you are marked above average by the state
But below average by yourself because you've never been good enough
When you don't know where you came from
Or where you're going to go

Sometime I don't know how to check the boxes on standardized tests
Let alone the ones society shoves down my throat time and time again
Sometimes I dance with tears in my eyes
Because I wish I could just say what I mean
Sometimes I fall in love with a moment that doesn't exist
And get disappointed the second I wake up from my dream
Sometimes I wish someone would cut me halfway open
So that all of the unspoken words in my guts would pour out
And I wouldn't have to say a thing
I could just smile with relief and take that deep breath everyone keeps telling me to take

But maybe this is all part of adolescence
Maybe when you step in bubblegum while walking to class
You get stuck in that wintergreen flavored uncertainty forever
That's why we all dread walking past the school's repeated doors and tiles
Because they know what they're supposed to look like
To feel like
They know what their purpose is and we don't even know our own
Maybe that's what we're really jealous of
The idea that everyone holds themselves together perfectly
But truly we all secretly cry and cry and cry until we can't anymore
Soon enough we all find out that the boxes we have to check don't exist
And it's okay to cry
And you're allowed you're silence
And our freedom of thought is our's alone
No one else's.

#5 Leen & Alexis

Article 3 - Everyone has the right to live, to be free and to feel safe.

Article 4 - No one can be put in slavery

Leen: I'm focusing on women's rights because I feel that the woman's rights are missing in our community. And also I wrote a new poem about women's rights and I named it *I'm a powerful woman*. It talks about women's rights and the word *feminism*.

If my blood moves like a red flower that has been removed from a green tree
Just like the color of the grass where a little girl is playing on
Now it's been controlled by the person who took it
But you can always stand up for yourself
And just because it's so soft and it smells so good the person thinks that he has the right to control it and do whatever he wants with it
But no because he doesn't know that she's strong and she can bring out her superpowers and to free herself.
I am a powerful woman!

I'm a woman who believes in feminism and I'm a feminist
Societies defines feminism as the theory of the political, economic, social equality of the sexes
They also define it as an organized activity on behalf a women's rights and interests
A feminist define feminism as a woman who lives life as she chooses
Feminism is the most important movement that we could embrace because it's another word for equality.
It's not a word that is only for women it's a word for both men and women that leads them to believe in equality and stand up for equality
I am a powerful woman!

No matter what we choose to wear, say, believe in, or choose to do for our lives we are still powerful, strong, beautiful women
A woman must have power to defend and protect herself from anything that could break her down
Everyone should respect women and stop treating them like objects
Everyone should work towards changing the horrifying culture
In the civil war time, women had no rights to choose who they want to marry or what they want to do for their life.
Now, our culture must give all rights to women that could protect her from experiencing miserable moments that can't be forgotten
I am a powerful woman!

Men might have muscles that show how they're physically strong, and that they have super powers that let them play any role in society.

Women might not have muscles, but we can spread our ideas and make a change in society: we can become leaders, we can be powerful just like men

I am a powerful woman!

We should not be judged by what we do

We should have the same rights as men, and the same respect.

We should be able to choose what we want to do, no one should control us, or tell us what to do.

We deserve to be treated equally, respectfully and live peacefully without judgements.

I am a powerful woman!

Let's think of women's rights as human rights (**all enter and take a position of power**)

Let's make a positive change, that could change the society's negative views on women

Let's make everyone believe that woman could play a big important role in society

Let's show everyone that women can change things for the better

Let's raise our daughters and sons and teach them the right way to define the word "feminism".

Let's teach them that there's no difference in genders,

Everyone can have a different power and abilities that should be admired

Let's all live-in-peace with happiness, respect and power!

I am a powerful woman!

All in unison taking the right fist elbow down then raise up: *We are powerful women!*

Leen passes the mic to Alexis as they stay standing together: (add in monologue)

If my mouth ran like a "man's," with the locker room talk or the the sports talk, would I be an equal one to you?

If my head ran like a "man's" with the "dominating" mindset or the "household breadwinner" mindset, would I be an equal one to you?

If my thoughts ran like a "man's," with the "women can't do this," thoughts and the "go make me a sandwich," thoughts, would I be an equal one to you?

Because my mouth runs like a 'man's' which an independent voice that will be heard, they will know I am equal to them.

I am a powerful woman!

All in unison taking the right fist elbow down then raise up: *We are powerful women!*

#7 Collaborative poem (all sit on front edge of stage)

#25--Right to health services

#26--Right to education

Focusing on menstruation, the discomfort, the stigmas, and addressing the importance of education, appreciating menstruation, and access to products to promote health and safety. Each one of you can add a section or stanza to this. Repeat the motto throughout for emphasis: Natural beauty is in our blood!

After each person shares, put your arm around the next person as a sign of unity and support

Thi

What We Feel Is Pain.

What We Feel Is Being Uncomfortable In Our Own Skin.

Feels Like A Trap.

As time goes by, we realize that it's not a trap but a very good thing.

Bleeding red gives us something for the future.

Bleeding red allows us girls to have kids one day.

Having a period is a good thing,then.

Be comfortable in your own skin.

Stay You And Stay Strong.

Natural beauty is in our blood!

Estefany:

Women are told to be secretive

when the time of month visits

Yes our blood are secreted

We can grow life inside ourselves

We can give birth to another living being

Menstruation is much more than a sense of liquid flow

Throughout our veins red blood runs

We all bleed red

Not blue or green

We all bleed red

No matter our sexual orientation

We all bleed red

No matter our religion

We all bleed red

No matter our body shape

Lets appreciate women's biology

Natural beauty is in our blood!

Emma:

We take the stigmas
We take the pain
We take the jokes
And we take the migraines
But yet our bodies remain jokes
And nature's blood is still shamed
I did not choose to drip red
Or to play in your game
I bleed for my future kids
That will be brought from my stains
Natural beauty is in our blood!

Alexis:

Natural beauty is in our blood.
it's in our blood that our heart pumps throughout our bodies.
It's in our blood that has a bright crimson hue to it.
It's in our blood that we desperately try to keep in our bodies.
It's in our blood that we lose every month for approximately 50 years.
Natural beauty is in our blood!

Leen:

The blood that we lose every month is what keeps us healthy
Our blood is the most important part in our body's
We should not be Judged of it
Everyone should Respect it and stop making jokes of it because it's not something easy
It's not something that we just go through
It's a Painful thing
And no one feels it but is women's
Who are always told to be silent and have no right
But actually we are so powerful because we get to go through it every month and because of
that we are able to give birth
And no one can do that but women's
And now all rights have to be for woman's
Natural beauty is in our blood!

Hanen:

Natural beauty is our blood,
It's the blood that we should not be judged by
Because of our blood we are alive right now
Even though it's keeping us healthy we are always asked not to talk about it
Because some think it's a disgusting thing
But actually you are brought to the life because of that blood
And I think it's something beautiful
Natural beauty is in our blood!

Angela:

All my life periods have been so taboo
Whispering about whether or not somebody has a pad or a tampon
Suffering through the pain because I'm too embarrassed to ask for pain relievers
Feeling relieved when I miss a period
Questioning why me
Periods are healthy and nothing to be ashamed about
Natural beauty is in our blood!

After the last person shares, then in unison: Natural beauty is in our blood!

#8 Angela

Article 3: Right to Life, Liberty, Personal Security
Monologue about gun control

Aurora where 12 people were killed while watching a movie, my mom advised me to not go to the movies just in case

Sandy Hook where 27 people were killed at an elementary school, my sisters said that finally gun control might happen because who wouldn't change things if little kids were dying

Pulse where 49 people were killed in a nightclub, my mom told my sisters to be alert when going out

Las Vegas where 58 people were killed, my mom was scared whenever my sisters traveled outside of the bay area

Parkland where 17 people were killed, my mom said that nowhere was safe anymore
We aren't safe in the movies, nightclub, concert, or school
It's just another day, another shooting

More thoughts and prayers about how we're thinking about them, while the next day we instantly forget

More beliefs that the fault was on mental illness and having too many entrances

More solutions about arming teachers and bulletproof backpacks

More declarations of "this is my second amendment right"

It's as if they refuse to acknowledge that their blood stained hands rest on the idea created in the time when slaves were being bought, women had limited rights, and guns shot 3 rounds per minute

How many more people have to die till things change? (**All enter the stage and take positions of fear and lack of safety**)

How many more mass shootings need to happen till we think that lives are important than guns?

How many more prayers and thoughts do we have to send till we realize that maybe we should take action?

As students, concert goers, movie lovers and as human beings we won't stay silent because we don't want to be next

#9 Alexis

Article 3 --Everyone has the right to live, to be free and to feel safe.

The day we dont speak up against gun violence is the day we accept our death.
We accept it because we allowed ourselves to be censored.
We accept it because we blindly followed those who said “don’t worry, you’re safe here”
We accept it because we didn’t take anything seriously.
We accept it because we knowingly did not take action.
We accept it because conceded to silence.
But not anymore.

We will no longer allow ourselves to be restricted.
We will no longer follow those who can’t guarantee our safety.
We will be moderated because of what we went through.
We will take action and do whatever it takes to to make sure we are safe.
We will not succumb to silence because we have a voice.
A voice that will speak for those who were silenced.
A voice that will fight back oppression and injustice.
A voice that WILL be heard, no matter the cost.
Because as Martin Luther King Jr. said, **(Everyone begins moving towards Alexis and link arms)**
“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter”

All link arms and in unison: We will not be silenced!

Closing:

Yell out from side stage (left and right) in pairs and move out into a line across the stage and repeat: With our rights we can... (repeat a few more times) then, one at a time come forward and make the statement then move back to the line.

Estefany: With our rights we can improve our justice system to obtain a change that can protect and give hope to everyone.
(All repeat “With our rights we can”)

Leen: With our rights we can change the negative view of women
(All repeat “With our rights we can”)

Thi: With our rights we can stand up for what we what believe in and love whoever we choose
(All repeat “With our rights we can”)

Alexis: With our rights we can ensure safety and equality
(All repeat “With our rights we can”)

Hanen: With our rights we can learn to understand others and be open minded
(All repeat "With our rights we can")

Emma: With our rights we can bring the light in dark times
(All repeat "With our rights we can")

Angela: With our rights we can finally find peace

The group stops stomping and takes a stance pointing at the audience.

Angela: Now you *really* know your rights. The rights that belong to *all of us* in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is up to us to honor them for the welfare of our community. For us to live and thrive *together*. Know your rights to unite for what's right!

All move together with Angela to the front and take a unified position: Know your rights to unite for what's right!

Artwork for backdrop ideas:

- Large image of a tree with roots
- Roots symbolize motivation or desire to take action
- The trunk is the UDHR feeding knowledge into the branches
- Branches represent the articles we chose to focus on
- Flower blooms in the treetop are the results of that growth and what we gain through the UDHR and taking action--Empathy, Awareness, Transformation, Problem-Solving, Community building, Inspiration, Leadership, Advocacy, Responsibility
- The sun above can also be the light of inspiration from the UDHR and knowing your rights
- On the top will be the theme: Know your rights to unite for what's right!