



Our Voice Our Day - Activist Packet

Welcome! We're so glad to have you a part of this project!

We are growing a community of young adults who know this Election Day is important and also know that we either don't personally feel clear about whether our vote matters or we know people who do.

From July through to November 3rd - Election Day - we are holding live stream events that have different themes. Those themes inspire artistic responses and deep dialogue which helps us to slow down, be honest, and figure out how we feel, and what voting in the United States in 2020 truly means for us personally, for our communities and our nation.

This 'Activist Packet' is the result of one of those events - "Why I Love, Hate or am Confused About Voting" - and is structured for you to be able to hold similar gatherings with your friends, peers and family members. It should last about two hours.

Here is the challenge — gather people together who either are on the fence about voting, have never voted or think their vote doesn't matter. You can have others there as well to also share their thoughts but the point of this activism is to build the numbers of people who have found a powerful and purposeful reason to vote come November 3rd. Even if it is you and one friend - that is one more person who may participate in our democracy and that has great value!

Background

These events are based on what are called the Four Pillars of Art for Social Renewal - Kindness, Community, Artistry and Whole Artist Elements (Curiosity, Knowledge, Courage, Passion, Connectivity, Hunger and Sensual Development).

So when you think about bringing people together — we are asking that you take a Kind approach. For us this means that you create an environment where people feel safe and where listening is actively involved.

In this way you have the possibility of developing a sense of community — of bringing people together with a single goal — to go deep into conversation on something in order to figure out where they stand and why.

Artistry is offered in the video portion - that part has already been done for you!

The Whole Artist Elements are the elemental factors of creating both art and community. So when you hold the discussion part of the gathering, you can lead with Curiosity, you can seek further Knowledge, you can be Courageous in allowing vulnerability, Passionate about why we are all here, Connect to your group and to the subject matter and help them do the same, be Hungry to remain in grey areas without the need to be 'right' or for someone to be 'wrong' and the Sensual Development is also offered in some of the art work (listening, watching with strong attention are the two primary senses experienced over video!)

Process

Your gathering is broken up into three parts.

Part One - After you have welcomed everyone and made them comfortable with one another share the video. Here you will see the artistic contributions as well as examples of shared observations that can help motivate your discussions. Here is the link:

<https://youtu.be/pKlcQ4e2tWk>

Part Two - Hold a discussion. The purpose is to keep conversation going, to be kind, to create community, to be inclusive and to ask deep and rich questions. Do not let anyone 'get away with' saying "I don't know" or "I liked it" without gently prying deeper with curiosity -- so that you help them open up their own thoughts, their own heart. "Why" works really well! And then, also with kindness, if someone goes in a direction that is offensive to anyone in the group - any sort of attacking pushback or the like, or if someone gets deep into political positioning -- remind them we are working toward building a community and maybe they could reframe their statement into a more generous question.

Go around the group and ask each person the following questions - this portion can and should take time, about 45 minutes to an hour. Allow the answers to develop into conversation and use the questions to move it deeper and to be sure to involve everyone there.

Questions to ask:

ART INSPIRATION

Of all the art pieces you saw, which one is most aligned to how you feel about voting and why? Which is the least connected to your positions or thoughts and why?

Which piece made you think about something different or something you hadn't considered?

Did any of them inspire you?

Did any of them anger you?

THEME EXPLORATION

When you think of the title of this event - why I Love, Hate or am Confused about voting - if you had to choose one of the three which are you?

Do you see a connection to voting in November to the protests happening now? Why or why not?

MOVING FORWARD

What is the big challenge in either bringing yourself or others you know to find enthusiasm for the vote?

How can we work together to address these issues in the months ahead?

How do you think we can build this community around the idea of voting as having value?

Part Three - Activism on the project moves forward by:

- A) Being sure everyone is registered to vote. If they are not please share this link with them where they can register in two minutes: <https://www.vote.org>
- B) Letting those who are 18-29 know they are welcome to the remaining events of Our Voice Our Day by going to www.theglobaltheatreproject.org
- C) Sharing these materials with members of your group to conduct their own gathering and offering to be there as support if needed
- D) Letting them know our last event is an all day livestream to inspire those who are going to be on long lines to - #StayTheLine on Election Day! - And to help spread the word
- E) Connect to our Social Media on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (Our Voice_Our Day) Our hashtags - #OurVoiceOurDay #StayTheLine

We are excited to have you as a part of this project. Please contact us at info@theglobaltheatreproject.org with any questions or comments. We'd like to hear from you!

