

Home Page March 1

How Can We Be the Light?


*We will rebuild, reconcile and recover
and every known nook of our nation and
every corner called our country,
our people diverse and beautiful will emerge,
battered and beautiful
When day comes we step out of the shade,
afame and unafraid
The new dawn blooms as we free it
For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it
If only we're brave enough to be it*

—Amanda Gorman's Inaugural Poem, Jan. 21, 2021
"

[—Wikipedia](#)

You are welcome to visit Voices Free Online School. Our hope is to have it up and running by Fall 2023. The Book 1: Democratic Values minicourse and the Project 1: Stop Gun Violence minicourse are fully developed and can be viewed in

Learndash now. Please provide any comments or suggestions for future minicourses.



Enrolled

1. Democratic Values: Unite and Guide Our Country

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.”
—Statue of Liberty Inscription, Emma Lazarus

Explore eight core democratic values that can guide us to reunite our country beginning with love and freedom. (view now, enroll fall)

[Click here to view Book 1: Democratic Values minicourse.](#)

Enrolled



Stop Gun Violence

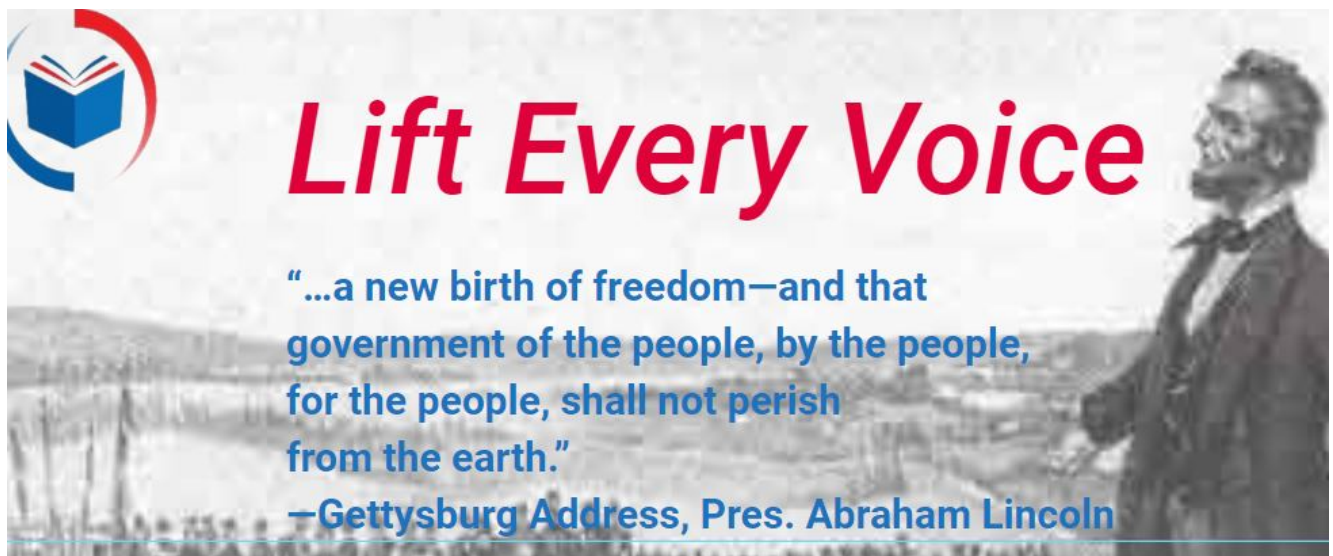
Explore how to use the Lift Every Voice democratic values, skills, and knowledge to help you advocate for solutions for stopping gun violence. (view now, enroll fall)

[Click here to view Project 1: Stop Gun Violence](#)

Voices Institute is Committed to Supporting Children, Young People, and Adults in Our Country and Around the World to Lift Their Voices to Overcome the Obstacles that Divide Us and to Advocate for

a More Compassionate, Just, and Free Democratic Country and World!

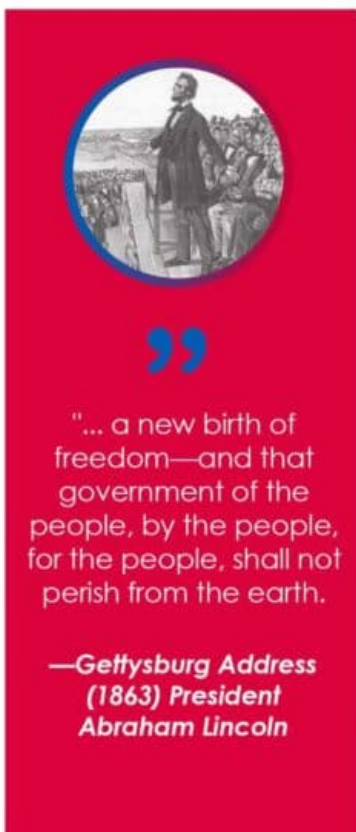
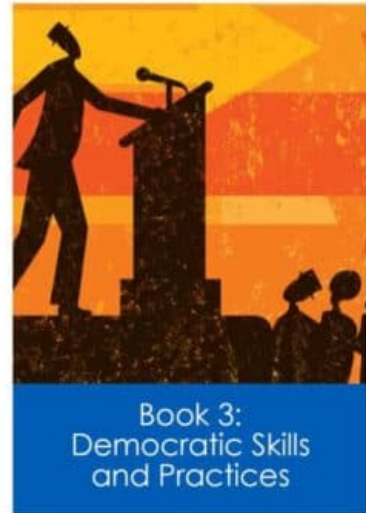
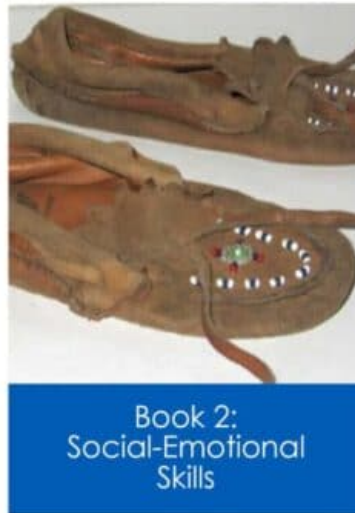
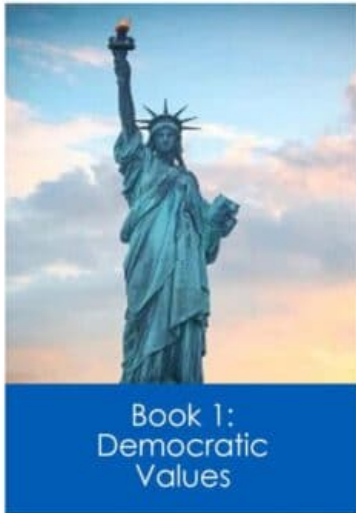
Voices Institute provides two educational websites: *Lift Every Voice* and *Voices Free Online School*. The *Lift Every Voice Website* includes *Lift Every Voice Books* which provide background information on democratic values, skills, and knowledge. In the *Lift Every Voice Projects*, you can apply these democratic values, skills, and knowledge to some of the most important social and ecological problems of our day. These projects conclude with delivering a speech advocating a solution to these problems. The *Voices Free Online School* provides *Lift Every Voices Minicourses* in which you can explore these democratic competencies and social and ecological problems in more depth.



[Click here to go to the Lift Every Voice website: Includes Lift Every Voice Books and Resources.](#)

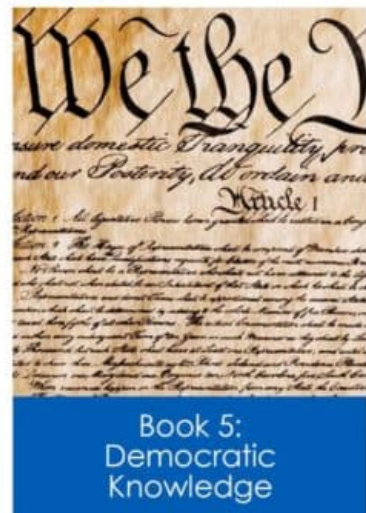
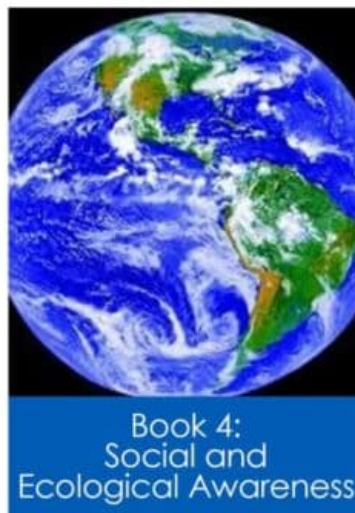
What Are *Lift Every Voice*

Books?



Lift Every Voice

How can we create a more compassionate, just, and democratic country and world?



The *Lift Every Voice Books* focus on five major democratic competencies, beginning with Book 1: Democratic Values and then Book 2: Social-Emotional Skills, Book 3: Democratic Skills and Practices, Book 4: Social and Ecological Awareness,

and Book 5: Democratic Knowledge. We believe that the most important competency is the learning and applying of Democratic Values. Click [here](#) to view the Lift Every Voice website which includes both the Lift Every Voice Books and the Lift Every Voice Projects.



"We stand now where two roads diverge . . . The other folk of the road—the one less traveled by—offers our last, our only chance to reach a destination that assumes the preservation of the earth."
—From *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson

[Click here to view the Lift Every Voice website.](#)

Democratic Values, Skills, and Knowledge

"...that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

—Gettysburg

Address

Lift Every Voice
and Unite Our Country

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning
to breathe free."

—Emma

1. Democratic Values: Guide

Lazarus

Democratic Values, Skills, and Knowledge 2. Social and
Emotional Skills: Stand in Other People's Shoes, Resolve
Conflicts Non-Violently

" We will be known forever by the tracks we leave In other
people's lives, our kindnesses and generosity. Take the time
to walk a mile in his moccasins."

–Mary T. Lathrap
Skills,

and

Democratic Values,
Knowledge

3. Democratic Skills and Practices: Advocate,
Discuss, Debate, Negotiate
"Black Lives Matter was created as... a call to action for
those who want to ...build a world where black lives do,

in fact, matter."

–Alicia Garcia Democratic Values, Skills, and Knowledge

4. Social and Ecological Awareness: Pursue Social
Justice and Ecological Balance

"We stand now where two roads diverge . . . The other fork of
the road...offers our last, our only chance to reach a
destination

that assumes the preservation

of the earth." –Rachel Carson Democratic Values, Skills,

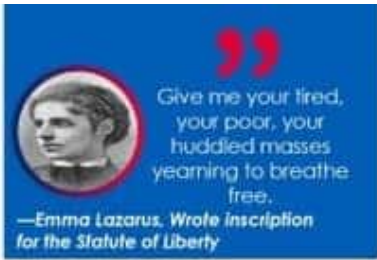
Knowledge

5. Democratic Knowledge: Understand Our Democratic Rights and Protect Them

"We look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms...freedom of speech... freedom...to worship
...freedom from want . . . (and)
freedom from fear . . . anywhere
in the world." –Pres. Roosevelt

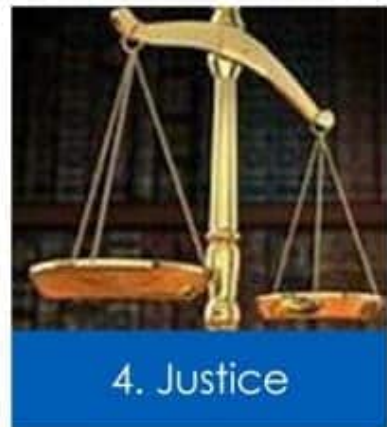
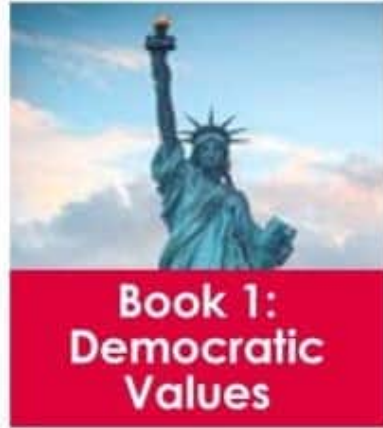
Democratic Values, Skills,
and Knowledge

***Lift Every Voice* Begins With
Democratic Values**



Lift Every Voice

How can we create a more compassionate,
just, and democratic country and world?



Lift Every Voice seeks to help young people and adults to understand, embrace, and apply these democratic values as they research major contemporary social and ecological problems. They can integrate them into their proposals and speeches.

[Click here to Read More About Democratic Values](#)



“I’ve long talked about the battle for the soul of America. We must restore the soul of America. Our nation is shaped by the constant battle between our better angels and our darkest impulses. It is time for our better angels to prevail.”

—Election Eve Speech by President-Elect Joe Biden (Nov. 7, 2020)

Lift Every Voice	Stop Gun Violence Minicourse
Denver, CO	Stop Gun Violence Minicourse Step 1:
Connect to the Problem: Gun Violence	Black Lives Matter,
DC	Stop Gun Violence Minicourse Step 2: Compare
and Evaluate Case Studies	Boulder, Colorado
Stop Gun Violence Minicourse	Step 3: Analyze the Data
Atlanta, Georgia	Stop Gun Violence Minicourse
Step 4: Listen to and Share Stories	Sandy Hook, CT
Stop Gun Violence Minicourse	Step 5: Read Proposals
and Listen to Speeches	Charleston, SC
	Stop

Gun Violence Minicourse Step 6: Develop, Present, and
Advocate for Your Proposal El Paso, TX Stop
Gun Violence Minicourse Step 7: Discuss and Debate the
Proposals Parkland, FL Stop Gun Violence
Minicourse Step 8: Lift Your Voice: Cast Your Votes

What Are *Lift Every Voice Projects*?

Lift Every Voice

How can we lift our voices to advocate for a more compassionate, just, and free country and world?



Six minutes and about 20 seconds. In a little over six minutes 17 of our friends were taken from us, 15 were injured and everyone, absolutely everyone in the Douglas community was forever altered....

—Emma Gonzalez
March for Our
Lives Speech,
March 24, 2018



Project 1:
Stop Gun Violence



Project 2:
Stop the Pandemic



Project 3:
Stop Police Violence



Project 4:
Stop Global Warming

Lift Every Voice is designed to help people to learn and master these core democratic competencies and then apply these values, skills, and knowledge to advocating for ways to solve major social and ecological problems in our country and world. These are just four of the many problems that we need to

solve. They are just the beginning.

[Click here to Read More About the Lift Every Voice Projects](#)



“And as we lay you to rest today, the movement won’t rest until we get justice, until we have one standard of justice. Your family is going to miss you, George, but your nation is going to always remember your name because your neck was one that represented all of us and how you suffered represented our suffering . . . ”

–Eulogy for George Floyd by Rev. Al Sharpton

Social and Ecological Problems

Stop the Pandemic

Social and Ecological Problems Social and Ecological Problems

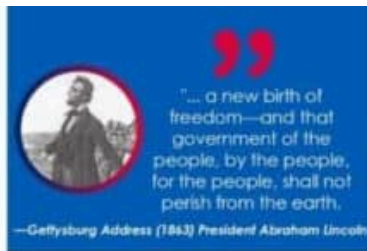
Social and Ecological Problems 600,000 Dead in the United

States By the End of May! Stop Gun Violence

40,000 Dead Every Year From Gun Violence!

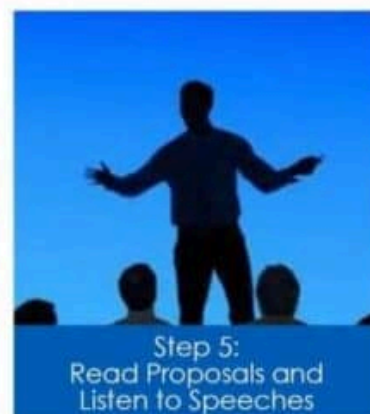
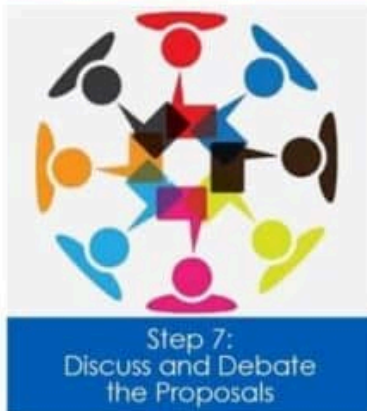
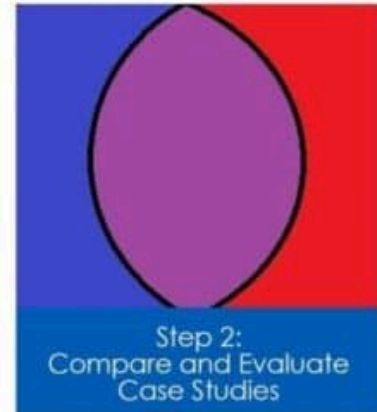
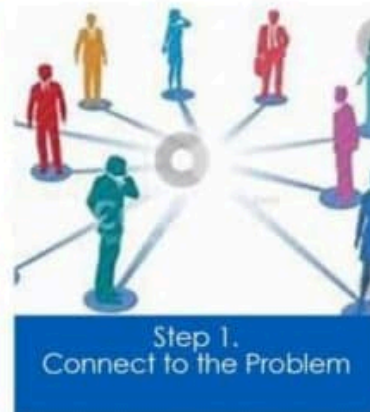
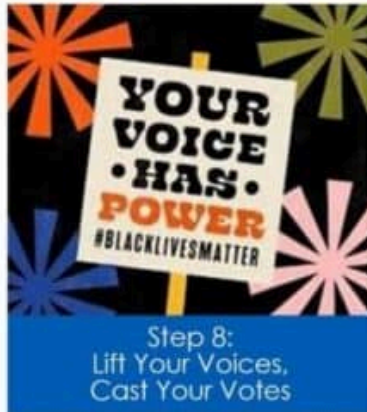
	Social and
Ecological Problems	Stop Global Warming
Temperatures will continue to rise! More droughts! More	
Hurricanes! Sea level will rise 1-8 feet! Arctice will be ice	
free! Social and Ecological Problems	Stop
Police Violence	
1,127 Persons Were Killed by Police in 2020!	Social and
Ecological	Problems

Eight Steps for Lifting Our Voices



Lift Every Voice

How can we lift our voices to advocate for a more compassionate, just, and free country and world?



Voices Institute

Lift Every Voice Projects are organized into Eight Steps. In **Step 1: Connect to the Problem** you can explore what you know or have experienced about the problem. In **Step 2: Compare and**

Evaluate Case Studies, you try to get a handle on the problem by delving into case studies of the problem. While in **Step 3: Analyze the Data**, the objective is to get a broad understanding of all the facts related to the problem, then in **Step 4: Listen to and Share Stories**, you can listen to the stories of those affected by the problem and share your own study. **Step 5: Listen to and Read Proposals** begins the process of choosing your proposal by getting a broad understanding of state and local legislative proposals as well as the proposals of advocacy organizations. In **Step 6: Develop and Present Your Proposal**, you will develop your proposal, write out your speech, and deliver your speech on video. After that in **Step 7: Discuss and Debate Proposals**, you can listen to and discuss other people's speech and see if you can reach a compromise and common ground on how to solve the problem. Finally in **Step 8: Lift Your Voice, Cast Your Votes**, you will have the opportunity to vote on all the proposals and to lobby elected officials to support your proposal.

What Are *Lift Every Voice* Minicourses?

”

"I want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is."

—Greta Thunberg, World Economic Forum, Davos, 24 January 2019



Lift Every Voice

How can we lift our voices to advocate for a more compassionate, just, and democratic country and world?



Book 1: Democratic Values:
Unite and Guide Our Country



Book 2: Social-Emotional Skills:
Stand In Other People's Shoes



Book 3: Democratic Skills and Practices: Discuss, Debate, and Advocate



Book 4: Social and Ecological Awareness: Pursue Justice and Ecological Balance



Lift Every Voice Minicourses



Book 5: Democratic Knowledge: Understand and Protect Our Rights and Responsibilities



Project 1:
Stop Gun Violence



Project 2:
Stop Police Violence



Project 3:
Stop Global Warming

The *Voices Free Online School* is being developed by Voices Institute to provide free digital resources and minicourses to young people in the United States and around the world that can help them learn how to create, maintain, and improve their

democratic institutions and culture. There are two sets of *Lift Every Voice Minicourses*. First, there are the minicourses that go along with the *Lift Every Voice Books*. Currently, you can view the Book 1: Democratic Values Minicourse. Hopefully the minicourses for Books 2-5 will be available by Fall 2023 and Winter 2024. The *Lift Every Voice Books Minicourses* are organized into five steps. Second, there are the minicourses that go along with the *Lift Every Voice Projects*. Currently, you can view the Project 1: Stop Gun Violence Minicourse. Hopefully the minicourses for Projects 2-4 will be available by Fall 2023 and Winter 2024 as well. The *Lift Every Voice Projects Minicourses* are organized into eight steps.

Categories

Free



1. Democratic Values: Unite and Guide Our Country

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.”

–Statue of Liberty Inscription, Emma Lazarus

Explore eight core democratic values that can guide us to reunite our country beginning with love and freedom. (view now, enroll fall)

[Enroll Now](#)

Free



2. Social and Emotional Skills: Stand in Other People's Shoes and Resolve Conflicts Nonviolently

Explore and learn to master core social-emotional skills such as social perspective skills and conflict resolution skills. The ability to stand in someone else's shoes or moccasins is one of the most important social skills to learn and practice. (view summer, enroll fall)

[Enroll Now](#)

Free



3. Democratic Skills and Practices: Advocate, Discuss, Debate

Explore and learn to use core democratic skills and practices to advocate for ways to solve important social and ecological problems. The most important democratic skill is democratic voice—the ability to use your voice and all your talents to express your thoughts and proposals for improving our democratic society and government. (view summer, enroll fall)

[Enroll Now](#)

Free



4. Social and Ecological Awareness: Pursue Social Justice and Ecological Balance

To improve our country and world we need to first understand the distribution of power in our societies and scientific evidence about the causes of global warming. With a realistic understanding of the social and ecological obstacles confronting us, we will be much more able to overcome and solve these problems. (view fall, enroll winter)

[Continue Study](#)

Free



5. Democratic Knowledge: Understand Our Democratic Rights and Protect Them

To improve our democracy, we need to understand its roots and how it has grown over the last two centuries. This includes all the rights that we have declared for ourselves and how to use the different branches of government to pursue and protect these rights. Most recently, we have experienced one of the most violent threats to our democracy, perhaps only exceeded by the Civil War. Our government is now surrounded by fences. (view fall, enroll winter)

[Enroll Now](#)

Free



Stop the Pandemic

Explore how to use the Lift Every Voice democratic values,

skills, and knowledge to help you advocate for solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic. (view now, enroll fall)

[Enroll Now](#)

Free



Stop Global Warming

Explore how to apply Lift Every Voice democratic values, skills, and knowledge to help you advocate for ways to stop global warming. (view fall, enroll winter)

[Continue Study](#)

Free



Stop Police Violence

Explore how to use the Lift Every Voice democratic values, skills, and knowledge to help you advocate for ways to stop police violence. (view summer, enroll fall)

[Continue Study](#)

Free



Stop Gun Violence

Explore how to use the Lift Every Voice democratic values, skills, and knowledge to help you advocate for solutions for stopping gun violence. (view now, enroll fall)

[Enroll Now](#)

Free



Oral Language Skills

The Oral Language Skills Minicourse includes: (1) Listening Skills; (2) Narrative Oral Language Skills; (3) Argumentative Oral Language Skills; (4) Explanatory Oral Language Skills; (5) Persuasive Oral Language Skills; (6) Oral Dialogue, Discussion, and Debate; and (7) Academic Oral Language Vocabulary. (view summer, enroll fall)

[Continue Study](#)

Free

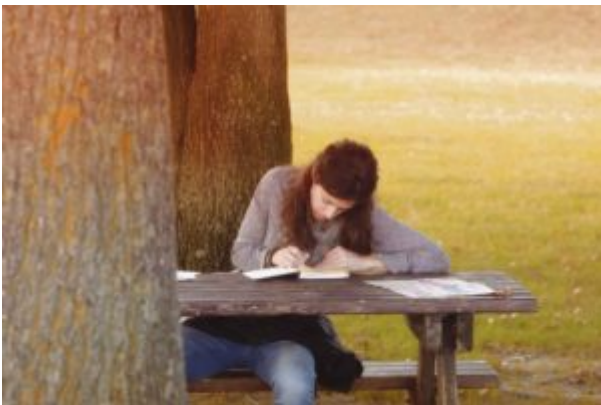


Reading Comprehension Strategies and Skills

The Reading Comprehension Strategies and Skills Minicourse includes: (1) Motivation and Purpose; (2) Non-fiction Texts: News Articles; Real-Life Stories, Proposals, Speeches; (3) Academic Reading Vocabulary; (4) Discussion and Debate; (5) Reading Comprehension Strategies; and (6) Background Knowledge. (view fall, enroll winter)

[Continue Study](#)

Free



Writing Skills

The Writing Skills Minicourse includes: (1) Motivation and Purpose; (2) Narrative Writing Skills; (3) Argumentative Writing Skills; (4) Explanatory Writing Skills; (5) Persuasive Writing Skills; and (6) Academic Writing Vocabulary. (view fall, enroll winter)

[Continue Study](#)

Free



Critical Thinking Skills

The Critical Thinking Skills Minicourse includes: (1) Higher-Order Thinking Skills (remember, understand, apply, analyze, evaluate, create); (2) Questioning; (3) Problem-Solving; and (4) Empowering. (view summer, enroll fall)

[Continue Study](#)

How Can We Save and Build Our Democratic Country?

By Advocating for a More Compassionate, Just, and Free Democratic Country and World!

We envision young people and adults anywhere being able to go online and listen to empowering stories and speeches, share their own stories, deliver their own speeches, and discuss their thoughts with other young people and adults about the best ways to create more compassionate, just, peaceful, and free democratic governments and societies.

Hopefully, *Lift Every Voice* will help us save and strengthen and improve our democracies.



The better angels of our nature are the democratic values that we embrace and which can guide us as we seek to heal and unite our country!



“Our history is defined by the youthful push to make America more just, more compassionate, more equal under the law. This generation—of Parkland of Dreamers, of Black Lives Matter—embraces that duty. If they make their elders uncomfortable, that’s how it should be. Our kids now show us what we’ve told them America is all about, even if we haven’t always believed it ourselves: that our future isn’t written for us, but by us.”

—Excerpted from “Cameron Kasky, Jaclyn Corin, David Hogg, Emma Gonzalez, and Alex Wind” by Barack Obama. *Time Magazine* (12/12/18)

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