

Students Spreading the Word About Climate Change

Below are 25 ideas for spreading the word about climate change. Just as scientists disseminate their important findings, students will want to tell others about the important information they've been learning about climate change. Sharing their knowledge changes the students' mindset from victim of climate change to protector (hero) of the planet. It feels good to talk about ways kids can work together to slow down climate change, because it makes them feel like they're part of a bigger movement. It's empowering!

The ideas below are listed from large to small. Whatever you, as the teacher, feel comfortable taking on is the right choice. The important part is to send the message to your students that educating others about climate change is important. Their quality of life depends on it.

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- 1) Students share their information about climate change with other kids on Kids Against Climate Change. They can join the online discussion, and can submit a picture or a video.



- 2) Students meet with an adult who has power to make societal changes. They can share their concerns about climate change and what they'd like her/him to do about it.



3) Students write to an adult who has power to make societal changes. They share their concerns about climate change and what they'd like her/him to do about it. (Successful writing format: why me, why you, why now, why this.)

4) Students design a card for an organization that helps the environment, letting them know they appreciate their efforts to make the world a better place for the future.

5) Teacher creates a free [Animoto video](#) of student actions to mitigate climate change, and posts on class website/social media.

6) Students design [multimedia posters](#) about taking care of Earth and share with another class, or post on social media.

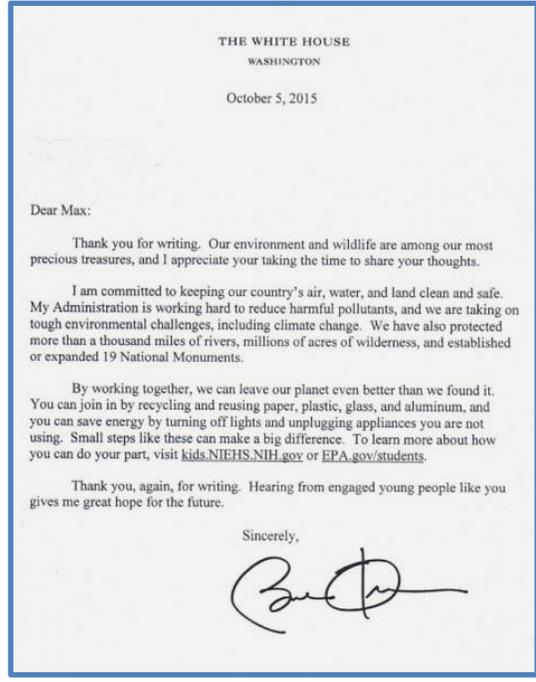
7) Teacher [writes an article](#) about classroom climate change activities for an educational magazine/website/ LinkedIn/Twitter and incorporates student work.

8) Teacher presents a workshop on climate change classroom activities at an educational conference, using photos of students and examples of student work. (Contact me if you're interested in co-presenting, or if you're new to presenting and you'd like some help.)

9) Students speak at a town board meeting about a local environmental issue.

10) Students prepare a "press release" about students' climate mitigation activities for the local newspaper.

11) Students join their local Arbor Day Committee to plant trees at school, or around the community (and invite the press).



- 12) Students create posters telling the climate change story and ask local libraries, town hall, colleges, hospitals, tourist centers, museums, science centers, aquariums, national park visitor center, art galleries, etc., to put them on display for a month.



- 13) Students collaborate with another class in a different county/state/country sharing ideas about taking care of the environment. Teachers can find a class through [e-pals](#) or [Skype](#), or ask parents of students if they have contacts in a different country.
- 14) Older students teach younger students in their district about the importance of recycling and re-using, and turning off lights and water to save energy.
- 15) Students prepare a short survey to administer to children or adults, which also provides an opening to talk about climate change. (e.g., Where does the plastic, used to make plastic bags, come from?)
- 16) Students prepare a “press release” about class’s climate activities for district’s e-newsletter, or social media accounts.
- 17) Students speak with the superintendent and School Board about retrofitting the school to use less energy: sealing around windows, using CFL bulbs, installing automatic energy savers to turn off lights and shut down computers in the evening.
- 18) Students incorporate climate change adaptation and mitigation ideas into their science fair projects.
- 19) Students design special environmental awareness activities for the school to celebrate Earth Day.
- 20) Students monitor the recycling bins and trash bins at each lunch period for a week, once a term, to make sure children are using them correctly, redirecting students to correct bins as needed.
- 21) Students create an environmental club at school to discuss and implement ways to protect the local environment.

22) Students create signs for the school cafeteria to identify trash bin, paper recycling bin, hard plastic/metal/glass recycling bin. (Attach samples of the types of trash that go in each container.)



23) Students design and perform skits about recycling, and other actions to take care of Earth, for a school-wide assembly.

24) Students create "Public Service Announcements" about taking care of Earth, and present one each morning for a week over the school's intercom.



25) Students create posters, or a mural, about reducing, re-using, and recycling for the school hallway.

