CLIMATE ART FOR CONGRESS

A SCIENCE, ART, AND CIVICS PROJECT FOR STUDENTS AT ALL GRADE LEVELS

BACKGROUND

It’s difficult to consider another crisis — the climate crisis — in the midst of Covid. But it’s also imperative. Legislation passed in response to the virus can either greatly worsen, or greatly improve, our prospects for climate progress. Legislation can either support clean energy and climate justice initiatives, or it can instead provide bailout money to fossil fuel companies, which have been aggressively seeking to exploit the Covid crisis. The latter has already happened! We need to prevent it from happening again. Fossil fuels must be left in the ground for a climate safe future.

We invite students at all grade levels to create illustrated notes for us to send to their representatives in the House and the Senate. Stand up for the climate and your right to a healthy, safe environment!

READY TO SPEAK OUT?

4 EASY STEPS

Below is a series of steps that will allow you to voice your demand for a climate-safe, livable future with Members of Congress as they pass legislation in response to the pandemic. For more detailed instructions, visit our blog.

STEP 1: Learn about climate science
Learn about climate change and why we must act immediately. Here are two fantastic websites with a variety of resources and activities: Alliance for Climate Education’s Our Climate Our Future and NASA’s Climate Kids.
STEP 2a: Who represents you in Congress?
Identify your Member of Congress and Senators on this website.

STEP 2b: Find out where they stand on climate
With a parent’s help (for younger students), research your elected officials’ positions and actions on climate. Do they support policies that reduce carbon pollution and promote climate justice and equity? Two examples include support for the Green New Deal and committing to the No Fossil Fuel Money Pledge. Check out the resources on our blog post to begin your research!

STEP 3a: Voice your opinion!
Write a short handwritten note expressing your views to your Members of Congress. For a sample, visit this step on our blog!

STEP 3b: Use your creativity to make an impact
Create an illustration on the rest of the paper. How are you feeling these days? What makes you feel hope or concern for the future? Make art about either of these questions or anything else related to climate change.

STEP 3c: Show us your work!
Send your illustrated note by filling out this form. For best image quality, we recommend doing a color scan of your letter. “Genius Scan” is a free smartphone app that works beautifully. We will color print your note and mail it to your Member of Congress and both of your Senators (or any one of them you choose).

STEP 4: You’re a published artist!
Spread the word! Check out the gallery on our website and find your note!

We will feature selected notes across our digital platforms, including our landing page, so that your work can inspire your peers!

Please tell your friends, classmates, and teachers and share this work on social media to spread the word.

Make sure to tag @climatemuseum and use the hashtag #ClimateArtForCongress