MUSIC BOX PROTEST

Objectives

- Students will explore the concept of protest and will brainstorm different social justice issues that inspire them to speak out.
- Students will create an original chant that conveys a message about an important socio-political issue.
- Students will understand how they can use their voice to speak out about important matters.

Materials needed

- None

Activity


- Define protest: “a declaration of opinion, usually one of dissent.”
- Take a few moments to collectively brainstorm major social issues that might spur protests (government corruption, gun violence, violence against women, discrimination against marginalized groups, etc.)
- Divide the class into small groups of 3-4 participants and have them review the list and have them identify an issue they feel passion about – an issue they would take to the streets and protest.
- Model a chant from Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992 with students:
  
  “No Justice, No Peace (No Racist Police!)”

- Rehearse the chant together a few times, then add some percussion.
- Ask the students to create their own chant for the issue they identified.
- Share the chants and add percussion (claps, stomps, using props if available).
- Conduct a chorus of chants – selecting groups to raise and lower their chants in volume.

While watching the play and learning about the past, think about the world we live in today and ask yourselves:

What is your tipping point?
What would it take to shake you out of complacency?
What can you do?
**Lesson Extensions**
This activity can be further developed into staging a live protest with real physical signs/banners made by the students.

**Lesson Variations**
In lieu of a collective brainstorm on social justice issues to explore, a specific topic can be prescribed if there is a particularly obvious issue of importance facing the group of students.