

You have the right to freedom of expression. You have the right to find out things and share what you think with others, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way as long as the information is not damaging to you or to others.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 13

★ Learning Point

You have the right to have and express your own opinions in different ways as long as it is not damaging to you or others.

WELCOME (5 minutes)

Teacher preparation: Display all the mini posters if possible.

Song: Be Our Best

REVIEW (5 minutes)

- Last week you were challenged to express yourself in a different way, such as writing, drawing or singing. Find a partner and share with each other what you created to express your feelings about your community.
- What did you understand about how your partner felt?

INTRODUCTION (5 minutes)

Activity: Article 13, partially covered

Have a student read **the first part of Article 13:**

You have the right to find out things and share what you think with others, by talking, drawing, writing or any other way . . .

- Stop the reader at this point, and explain that the writers of this article added something more about a limit on this right.
- **Uncover the bottom part, and allow the student to finish reading:**

. . . as long as the information is not damaging to you or to others.

DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Questions

- Are there times when we shouldn't say what we're thinking? What kinds of things?

- Have you ever heard someone say something that wasn't true about someone else?
- How did it affect the person who told the untruth? How did it affect the person who was lied about?

Read Article 13 together as a class.

Activity: Quoting Famous People

Instructions and quotes on the back.

- Ask the students to discuss in their group what the quote means to them. Do they agree or disagree with the famous person?
- Select a spokesperson from each group to share with the whole class what their group learned from the quote.

CONCLUSION (5 minutes)

Question: If you have freedom of expression or the right to express yourself, what would your responsibility be?

Guide students to understand that:

- They need to make sure that what they say is true or accurate.
- If they want their voices heard and respected, they also need to listen respectfully to others.

CHALLENGE

1. Think about the quotes and share one with your family and friends.
2. Brainstorm with them and make a sketch about "Freedom of Expression." What would be your central idea or message?
3. Bring your sketches to class next time.

Don't forget to fill in your brief *Facilitator Notes & Reflections* at the end of the manual.



Article 13

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. . . as long as the information is not damaging to you or to others.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child

QUOTING FAMOUS PEOPLE

Divide the class into four groups. Share one of the quotes listed below with each group.



I want freedom for the full **EXPRESSION** of my personality.

Mahatma Gandhi

Leader of the Indian Independence Movement

If we do not believe in **FREEDOM OF SPEECH** for those we despise, we do not believe in it at all.

Noam Chomsky
American Writer



I raise up my voice—not so I can shout but so that those without a voice may be heard. We cannot succeed when half of us are held back.

Malala Yousafzai

Pakistani Advocate for Female Education

I do not approve of what you say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it.

Voltaire
French Philosopher and Writer

