

# WORDS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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 Points

1. You have the right to have and express your own opinions.
2. You have the right to find out things and share what you think with others.

**WELCOME** (10 minutes)

**Song, “Be Our Best,”** Verses 1 and 2

## REVIEW

### Activity: Limited Expression

- Who can tell us about a value that we share no matter what our religion or belief?

After one of the students shares, ask another student (Student A) to cover his /her mouth. Ask a different student (Student B) to cover his/ her ears. They must keep mouth and ears covered as the REVIEW continues.

- Have 2 or 3 other students share common values that we all have no matter our beliefs.
- Student B can speak if he/she wishes to answer the review question, but must keep his/ her ears covered.

**INTRODUCTION** (10 minutes)

End the game and **have a student read Article 13 from the CRC about Freedom of Expression.**

## DEVELOPMENT

### Questions

- What do you think about the requests I made of Students A and B?
- Were they free to find out things and share them with other people?
- Student A, how did you feel during the game with your mouth covered?
- Student B, how did you feel with your ears covered?

- How did the rest of you feel knowing that someone could not speak or hear as well as you could?
- Can you think of a time when you were not able to express yourself? How did it feel to keep thoughts and feelings inside?
- Can you think of a time when you felt like nobody was listening?
- What are some external forces that keep you from expressing yourself or feeling understood?

**Have a student read CRC Article 13 again.**

- What human right do you think this refers to?

**CONCLUSION** (10 minutes)

### Activity: Malala’s Story and Picture

Read and discuss Malala’s story.

### Questions

- How does the story of Malala relate to Article 13?
- What are some other ways to express yourself besides speaking?  
(Write their suggestions on board or paper.)

Show the **Freedom of Expression** mini-poster.

- How does this relate to Freedom of Expression?

## CHALLENGE

1. Use one of the following ways to express your feelings about the community you live in: write a poem or draw a picture or sing a song, or write a rap, etc.
2. Share it with your family and tell them about the Right to Freedom of Expression.
3. Bring it back with you next time to share it with the rest of us.

## MALALA'S STORY

Malala Yousafzai was born in Pakistan in 1997. Pakistan is a beautiful country, but more than half the girls there didn't go to school even though most of the boys did. This bothered Malala a lot. Her father was the headmaster of a school where she was a student, and he was a big defender of education for girls.

When enemy soldiers came to her town, they said girls couldn't go to school. However, Malala and her friends refused to obey them. So the soldiers issued a death threat against her but that still didn't stop her from going to school and telling other people about what she was doing. She even gave a talk called, "How Dare [They] Take Away My Basic Right to Education?"

Nobody thought the soldiers would actually kill a young person. One day when Malala was 15 years old, she was riding a bus with friends on their way home from school, when a masked gunman jumped on board, and shouted, "Who is Malala?" Then he fired at her, hitting Malala in the head before he ran away.

Even though Malala almost died, she didn't give up. Today she continues to speak out in favor of education, especially for girls. When she was only 17 years old, she received the Nobel Peace Prize for doing the best work in the whole world to promote peace. Malala was the youngest person ever to receive that award.

People everywhere were outraged that someone would try to kill a girl just because she wanted to go to school. Pakistan swiftly passed a new law, the Right to Free and Compulsory Education, for the first time in that country's history.

The U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon described her as "a brave and gentle advocate of peace who through the simple act of going to school became a global teacher."

On the day that Malala turned 18, she was at the opening of a school for girls in Lebanon. She said, "Today on my first day as an adult, on behalf of the world's children, I demand of leaders that we must invest in books instead of bullets."



[commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Malala\\_Yousafzai](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Malala_Yousafzai)

### *Article 13*

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Don't forget to fill in your brief *Facilitator Notes & Reflections*. Found after Lesson 10B.

