

## Activism Infographic Rubric

Criteria	Score Possible	Self Score	Teacher Score
Your catchy project title is the title of your infographic. It is capitalized at the top of your infographic.	<b>5</b>		
You have at least 5 pieces of evidence (as facts and statistics) on your infographic that are represented in graphic form (charts, graphs, etc.)	<b>35</b>		
Your infographic is visually appealing with a streamlined, clear design (color and images are used effectively AND you have plenty of contrast between text and visuals)	<b>20</b>		
Your infographic is readable and is easily understood	<b>20</b>		
Sources are listed at the bottom of the infographic in MLA format	<b>10</b>		
Mechanics (spelling, punctuation, grammar, formal writing, etc.)	<b>10</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## 7th Grade Activism Project 2021-2022

*How can I unite my passion with a real-world issue/need while developing empathy for others?*

### **Project Description**

You will be exploring the UN Sustainable Goals and your own interests in order to prepare for the 7th grade Activism Project. In this project, you will be working on a self-directed, project-based learning experience in both your English and your Social Studies classes. You will be choosing your project based on your own interests and your desires to contribute to the world around you. Therefore, you will decide the direction your activism takes; in other words, you will find something you are passionate about that correlates to a need or a problem, how that passion might be used to better the world around you, and why it would be worth your time and effort. Activism work will be done throughout the school year, but your main project will be completed in the spring.

### **Empathy Component**

As a part of your project, you will include a community/service aspect. This can take many different forms, and you will need to decide what works for you and your schedule. This component of the project could be shadowing an expert in the field you are studying, volunteering, or setting up a fund drive, etc (FYI - we are not allowed to host fundraisers or drives at school as they conflict with what the school has already arranged throughout the year). Your project needs to improve the life of someone other than you and your family. This part of your Activism Project shows that you have empathy for other people.

### **Potential Ongoing Efforts**

Think about what you can do to carry your project into the future. You should feel passionate enough about your project that you continue thinking about it after its completion, so consider how you can propel your work into the future and resist closure.

### **Grading**

The majority of your grade on this project will be based on the progress of your work and whether you meet the targets/goals you set for yourself. Various tools will be used to gauge your progress and to give you feedback. Therefore, if you choose a project that you find meaningful, and if you work diligently, you will be successful, even if you run into obstacles that require you to shift your goals and plans during the course of the project. The final assessment of this project will be a presentation-style video about what you did and what you learned throughout your Activism Project. A rubric will be posted on Google Classroom so you can see the elements needed to be included in your video to make it as engaging and effective as possible.

### **Resources**

There is a Google Classroom that is for all 7th graders to use for their Activism Projects. You will find many valuable resources and links to help you. Also, it is crucial that you are proactive and ask for help from your teacher mentor if you find that you need assistance with finding additional resources or are struggling with any aspect of your project.

### **Mentors & Advisors**

You will be assigned a teacher mentor. You will also be assigned an advisor from the community to help with your project. Utilize these experts and ask them questions--they want to help you!

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

One of the UN Sustainable Goals involves gender equality which contains sensitive material. If your child would like to explore this goal, they must have your permission. Please initial permission here \_\_\_\_\_ and we will open the link for your child on their Google Classroom assignment link.

# ACTIVISM PROJECT PROGRESS CHART - 7TH GRADE

**Your Name:**

**Your Topic (once you figure it out):**

**Justification for Your Project (how it will positively affect the world around you):**

**Mentors helping you:**

**Mentors' contact information:**

**UN Goal:**

**Catchy Title:**

**Brief Project Description:**

**Directions:** Complete a row of this chart each time you work on Activism in order to record your progress. This is a MAJOR grade. You need information in EVERY box in EVERY row. If you don't have something for a particular box, then write something like, "None today," but it is rare that this should happen.

**Example:**

2-20	ELA	With Using Mindfulness in Motion Exam With Using Mindfulness in Motion Exam Response Sheet	So I checked back on the form in 3rd period, and we have 22 responses! This feels SO AMAZING! It's all working! We got a ton of positive feedback, and I am really grateful that we got responses. It feels good to know everything is falling into place! 18 of 22 people have said that our classroom has helped them, and I've compared numbers to our first form, and it is crazy! People have been feeling a lot less stressed. Honestly, I didn't think that we were going to be able to help so many people at the beginning of this project, and it feels great to know we did!	Keep checking the form! Also, start arranging data.
------	-----	---	---	---

Week Of	Where I Did Work (ELA)	Research & Resources	My Notes On How Today Went And What I Worked On	Notes For Next Time & Your Ongoing Action Plan
---------	------------------------	----------------------	---	--



### Activism Project Video Rubric

Directions: Student MUST fill in the fields in GREEN

Criteria	Excellent (9-10 / 4-5)	Good (6-7 / 2-3)	Not Quite (0-4 / 0-1)	Student Comments	Time Stamp	Points Possible	Student Self-Score	Teacher Score	Teacher Comments
Passion for Your Cause (PATHOS)	Effectively engages the viewer to care about your cause	Somewhat effectively engages the viewer to care about your cause	Does not engage the viewer to care about the cause	Explain how you personally feel about the cause and why you care.	Add your own example of the cause here.	10		10	
Sense of Urgency for Viewer to Join Your Cause (KAIROS)	Effectively engages the viewer to want to act, support, and/or join your cause - "go here, do this, give now." "Don't wait!" Explain HOW your viewer can take action.	Somewhat effectively engages the viewer to want to join the cause and act/support it in some way	Does not engage the viewer to the presenter's cause	Explain how you personally feel about the cause and why you care.	Add your own example of the cause here.	10		10	
Research of Existing Organizations and/or Activists (ETHOS)	Effectively explains what credible sources are currently in existence in our community and what they are doing presently to address the problem	Somewhat effectively explains sources currently in existence in our community to address the problem	Does not engage the viewer to the presenter's cause	Explain how you personally feel about the cause and why you care.	Add your own example of the cause here.	10		10	
Need (LOGOS) - Infographic	Through use of YOUR created infographic(s), effectively explain the problem and provide evidence (in the form of facts and statistics) that proves a need exists. Ensure you spend time discussing and showing the content of your infographic at a pace that can be understood by your viewers.	Through use of infographic(s), somewhat effectively explains the problem and provides some evidence (in the form of facts and statistics) that supports that proves a need exists.	Need is attempted, but evidence / infographic is missing	Explain how you personally feel about the cause and why you care.	Add your own example of the cause here.	10		10	
Explanation of Project	Clearly explains the UN goal you worked with, what the project's goals were (what did you want to accomplish?), what your hurdles were (including other projects you started that didn't work out), and how you see yourself moving forward (or not) with this cause in the future	Somewhat effectively explains what the project's goals were (what did you want to accomplish?), what your hurdles were, and how you see yourself moving forward (or not) with this cause in the future	Project explanation is either not presented or is unclear	Explain how you personally feel about the cause and why you care.	Add your own example of the cause here.	10		10	
Empathy	Effectively demonstrates how this project improves the lives of others	Somewhat effectively demonstrates how this project improves the lives of others	Does not effectively demonstrate how this project improves the lives of others	Explain how you personally feel about the cause and why you care.	Add your own example of the cause here.	10		10	
Results (Include evidence of impact on problem)	Effectively incorporates evidence/support to show how project impacted the cause	Somewhat effectively incorporates evidence/support to show how project impacted the cause	Does not effectively incorporate evidence/support to show how project impacted the cause	Explain how you personally feel about the cause and why you care.	Add your own example of the cause here.	10		10	
Media Elements (Slideshow, graphs, charts, visuals, etc.)	Effectively uses multiple media elements (slideshow, graphs, charts, visuals, etc.) to create a dynamic and compelling presentation that looks professional and delivers the necessary information	Effectively uses one medium (slideshow, graphs, charts, visuals, etc.) to create a dynamic and compelling presentation that looks professional and delivers the necessary information	Media may be attempted but is ineffective and/or confusing, which inhibits the message of the presentation	Explain how you personally feel about the cause and why you care.	Add your own example of the cause here.	10		10	
Credits & Sources	Gives credit/thanks to organizations, people, parents, etc., who helped you with your project; this can be verbal or digital. Includes a Works Cited section in MLA format.	Attempt is made, but may not be clear or in MLA format	Credits/sources are ineffective or not included	Explain how you personally feel about the cause and why you care.	Add your own example of the cause here.	7		7	
Time (Video length allows project to be showcased effectively)	Video is 5-6 minutes	Video is 4-5 minutes OR is 6-7 minutes	Video is ineffectively too long or too short	Explain how you personally feel about the cause and why you care.	Add your own example of the cause here.	3		3	
Video Production Quality & Professionalism	Video quality includes professional features: audio, lighting, transitions, and pacing (see Ms. Austin's video for reference)	Video somewhat effectively includes professional features	Video lacks professional features	Explain how you personally feel about the cause and why you care.	Add your own example of the cause here.	10		10	
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>	

## Video Checklist

Criteria	Your Video...	How I Will Achieve This	Check When Completed
<b>Passion for Your Cause (PATHOS)</b>	Effectively engages the viewer to care about your cause		
<b>Sense of Urgency for Viewer to Join Your Cause (KAIROS)</b>	Effectively engages the viewer to want to act, support, and/or join your cause - "go here, do this, give now." "Don't wait!" Explain HOW your viewer can take action.		
<b>Research of Existing Organizations and/or Activists (ETHOS)</b>	Effectively explains what credible sources are currently in existence in our community and what they are doing presently to address the problem		
<b>Need (LOGOS) - Infographic</b>	Through use of YOUR created infographic(s), effectively explain the problem and provide evidence (in the form of facts and statistics) that proves a need exists. Ensure you spend time discussing and showing the content of your infographic at a pace that can be understood by your viewers.		
<b>Explanation of Project</b>	Clearly explains the UN goal you worked with, what the project's goals were (what did you want to accomplish?), what your hurdles were (including other projects you started that didn't work out), and how you see yourself moving forward (or not) with this cause in the future		
<b>Empathy</b>	Effectively demonstrates how this project improves the lives of others		
<b>Results (Include evidence of impact on problem)</b>	Effectively incorporates evidence/support to show how project impacted the cause		

## Video Checklist

<p><b>Media Elements (Slideshow, graphs, charts, visuals, etc.)</b></p>	<p>Effectively uses multiple media elements (slideshow, graphs, charts, visuals, etc.) to create a dynamic and compelling presentation that looks professional and delivers the necessary information</p>		
<p><b>Credits</b></p>	<p>Gives credit/thanks to organizations, people, parents, etc., who helped you with your project; this can be verbal or digital. Includes a Works Cited section in MLA format.</p>		
<p><b>Time</b> (Video length allows project to be showcased effectively)</p>	<p>Video is 5-6 minutes</p>		
<p><b>Video Production Quality &amp; Professionalism</b></p>	<p>Video quality includes professional features: audio, lighting, transitions, and pacing (see Ms. Austin's video for reference)</p>		

## Choose 1 of these!

### Human Impact Podcast Assignment

- You are to create a podcast about your Human Impact topic.
- The podcast should begin with a short explanation of your issue in general and then dive into a specific feature of your topic that has stood out to you during your research (i.e. a particular event, organization, law, advocate, statistic, etc.).
- You are to include at least one interview. This interview can utilize actual quotes from a real person, created quotes from a real person, created quotes from a created person, or created quotes from a created non-human. ☺ You may utilize a friend for the voice of your interviewee or do it yourself.
- The podcast is to be between 90 seconds and 180 seconds long (1 ½ minutes – 3 minutes).
- Online Voice Recorder is the program I suggest using (<https://online-voice-recorder.com/>). It is an easy-to-use free resource that works on the school Chromebooks. You are welcome to use another sound recorder program.
- The audio file is to be saved to your Google Drive. I will let you know before the deadline date how I want you to submit the file to me.
- You will be given class time to prepare and record the podcast, but may have to finish at home. We will play some of the podcasts for the class. I will listen to the rest on my own. As always, let me know if you have any questions! ☺

**OR**

### Human Impact Art Piece

- Purpose: to creatively express your feelings about your environmental issue.
- The art piece is a creative representation of your environmental issue and a demonstration of the knowledge you have gained on the topic. It may be in the form of a painting, model, a song, a collection of poetry, video, or any other format approved by Ms. Newell.
- Whatever creative medium you choose, make sure you create this piece of art with the effort your topic deserves. We will display these art pieces.
- You must include a cursive-written or typed artist statement in which you briefly explain what the art piece is and how it expresses your feelings about the topic. This artist statement can be attached to the art itself or next to it. It can be on normal paper or something else like an index card.



First Name	Catchy Title + Description of Project	UN Sustainable Development Goal	Link to Video	What UN Goal(s) relate to this project?	What were the best aspects of this video?	What ideas did this video give you about creating a project of your own?	POSITIVE feedback
Maggie	Warm Feet Happy hearts- collecting socks for the homeless	No Poverty	Warm Feet, Happy Hearts	No Poverty	The best aspects of the video were the many supporting visuals she gave and her supporting evidence as well. This video's best aspects are its supporting visuals and how she shows how big of a problem world hunger is.	This video gave me the idea to do a similar fundraiser-type activity to support my cause. This video gave me the idea to show in the video how dire a problem is so people feel compelled to donate to my cause.	Her voice was very clear and easy to understand. This video does a great job showing that world hunger is a very serious and current situation by showing convincing visuals.
Shrut	Hands on Hunger. Raising money for an organization to help feed food insecure people	Zero Hunger	Hands on Hunger	Zero Hunger	The best aspects of this video were how clear and how he showed the volunteering he did and how he spread awareness.	This video gave me the idea to not only do services or volunteer to support my cause, but to also spread awareness through infographics and email.	I like how he took his liberty to both share his cause to others with the possibility that they might support this and also volunteer.
Abhi	Abhi's Trees: I am volunteering and raising awareness about trees.	Life on Land	Abhi's Trees	Life on Land	The best aspects of this video are the pictures she took in the locations she was in and the sources that she cited.	This video makes me want to do something service related for my project, too.	The cartoon format made the video more captivating and the research she did really shows.
Sarah	From Littering, the World is Bittering: I am going to a river/creek behind the SJWD Spartanburg Water District. I will get a team to come with me to pick up all of the trash that is in the water.	Clean Water & Sanitation	From Littering, the World is Bittering	Clean Water and Sanitation	The best aspects of the video were how he used a sad song in the background of the video to make the problem even more sad than it already was. Another aspect I enjoyed was that it was clear he put a lot of research into what specific topic he should choose and what foundation to support.	This video gave me the idea to sell a variety of different things related to my cause if I am doing a fundraiser so I can reach out to many different types of people.	The approach to stop poaching was very unique. Both selling baked goods and small sculptures of animals was an interesting idea that turned out to work outstandingly well.
Kai	Pester the Poachers: I held Bake Sales where I sold baked goods and animal sculptures to raise money for the International Anti-Poaching Foundation (IAPF).	Life on Land	Pester the Poachers	Life on Land			

First Name	Catchy Title + Description of Project	UN Sustainable Development Goal	Link to Video	What UN Goal(s) relate to this project?	What were the best aspects of this video?	What ideas did this video give you about creating a project of your own?	POSITIVE feedback
Sneha	Earthday Everyday-We go around, pick up litter at different locations and weigh the amount we get at the end. We spread awareness on our website.	Life on Land	Earth Day, Everyday	Life on Land	The best aspects of this video are that she not only mentioned the organization, but when into detail about what they specifically do. She also did a good job in the video when saying that you do not have to spend any money, but rather just work a little bit harder every day, which is a convincing argument that can make someone go green.	This video gave me the idea to mention a lot of statistics to support my cause and claim.	This video was very organized, well-thought-out, and convincing to those who litter.

# Human Impact on the Environment

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Due Date \_\_\_\_\_

You will become an expert on an environmental topic of your choice. Over the next several weeks, you will complete your research and create a podcast **OR** an art or data visualization piece. Some topic ideas are listed below. You are not limited to this list. You are welcome to scale down or narrow some of these topics if you have a focused area of interest. You should pick something you have not already researched to build your knowledge base.

## Topic Ideas

1. Invasive species
2. Sustainable seafood
3. Pollinator decline
4. Ocean dumping
5. Oil spills
6. Dam building
7. Water conservation
8. Electronic waste
9. Landfills
10. Deforestation
11. Habitat destruction
12. Pesticides
13. Irrigation
14. Desertification
15. Soil contamination
16. Soil erosion
17. Sustainable agriculture
18. Radioactive waste management
19. Sea-level rise/polar ice melting
20. Coral bleaching
21. "Blue Carbon"
22. Carbon Footprint
23. Air quality/smog
24. Renewable energy
25. Coal Industry
26. Fracking
27. Fossil Fuels
28. Genetically Modified Food
29. Changes in Precipitation  
Patterns
30. Sustainable Energy
31. Droughts and Heat Waves
32. Environmental Policy

Answer all questions in complete cursive sentences. You are welcome to type your responses if there is not enough space. You will be graded on detail and your effort to learn about the full scope of your topic.

1. Describe your topic. State and explain at least two pieces of evidence that this problem exists.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. List and describe the three best websites you found in your internet research. For each, explain why you chose them/why it is a reliable source.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. What is the geographic scope of your topic? Describe the area impacted.

---

---

---

---

4. What is the most shocking fact or statistic you have found on your topic. You are welcome to quote a source or put into your own words.

---

---

---

5. Is there an organization(s) related to your topic? If so, provide the name of at least one and explain their purpose. If not, explain why you think there are not organizations related to your topic.

---

---

---

---

---

6. What kind of laws and/or policies exist relative to your topic? Include information about how they are enforced if relevant.

---

---

---

---

---

7. Research a group of people or community directly impacted by your issue. Describe the impact and research at least one strategy you would recommend to them to help.

---

---

---

---

---

8. Who are the stakeholders of your topic? In other words, what groups of people (or living things) are affected? Choose at least two different groups and compare the pros and cons each group is experiencing. You may write in sentences, or



---

---

---

---

---