

Take a Stand

A guide for kids who are ready to change the world



Take a minute to think about something in your community that you love and want to protect. Whether it's your local library, the park down the street, or the stray cats that hang out in the neighborhood, these are examples of a **cause** or **issue** that you care about.

Now, think about how you *feel* about that cause. What is good about it? Is there a way it could be even better? Is there something not so good about it that you'd like to change? Your answers to those questions are called your **opinions** or **beliefs**. People like you who take the time to think about how to make their communities the best they can be, and then share those ideas with others, are known as **advocates**. As an advocate, you're helping improve our world! Here's how you can take a stand:

- 1 Make a statement!** Pick one of the causes or issues you care about and make a poster or sign to let other people know how you feel. If your focus is on your local park, you could write a statement like, "Clean Up Our Park!" or draw a picture of the trees and playground you love so much.
- 2 Get noticed!** Carry your sign in a local march, wear a T-shirt with a message about your cause, or give a presentation in class and show the sign you made to get people thinking and talking.
- 3 Use your words!** Write a letter to your local newspaper about how this issue makes you feel and what you think should happen. If you can't write yet, have an older sibling, parent, or another trusted adult help you out. If the team at the newspaper chooses to print your letter, it will be read by all kinds of people across your community!

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