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## **What is *My Voice*?**

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*My Voice* is a process of self-discovery, reflection, research and action that connects the classroom with the community. It is a service-learning approach that starts with kids. It calls on them to use their gifts and talents to speak out or act on behalf of others.

*My Voice* encourages active, hands-on learning, and it integrates reflection on real-world problems (hunger, homelessness, gun violence) with the curriculum. In short, it is a powerful way for students to learn more about the world while building their sense of purpose and capability.

What distinguishes *My Voice* from most other approaches to service-learning is our focus on student choice. We begin by asking students “Who are you?” and “What combination of gifts and talents makes you who you are?”

Then we switch gears and ask “What issues affect you the most?” and “What would you like to change in your community?” The simple act of asking students, engaging them in the identification of the social issue, has power. The conversation itself ignites motivation.