Teen Creative Challenges

EXPLORE YOUR RIGHTS

Do you know your rights as a young person in New York City? Does everyone have the same rights? How can we ensure more people know what they are legally entitled to? Let’s explore the rights that are important to you and share them with the world.

Get Creative!

- With recent censorship and book banning efforts, the right to read freely is more important than ever. Read about NYPL’s Books for All initiative, the American Library Association’s statements on book censorship and the censorship of information related to racial injustice, and the Library Bill of Rights for minors. Then write an essay explaining why you oppose banning books or write a reflection on reading a “banned book” and what you took away from it.

- Teenagers have rights—from your rights at school to rights as a protestor to disability rights and more! Explore the rights you have by visiting the ACLU or NYCLU websites then create a zine, collage, art piece, or statement teaching other teens about their rights—or tell a personal story about why these rights are important to you.

Submit What You Create to Our Teen Magazine Contest!

Our new teen magazine will include writing and art by and for teens. 25 pieces selected for publication will be awarded a $100 gift card. Submit between Thursday, June 9th and Friday, August 19. You must be between the ages of 13 and 19 and live, work, or go to school in New York City to enter. Read our full submission guidelines, and submit at this link.
Read About It!

Check out the titles below in the Library’s collection about real people and fictional characters learning about and fighting for their rights.

Explore More!

Visit your local branch to:

- Attend programs and events
- Talk with a library staff member about what you’re reading and creating
- Get book recommendations based on your interests!