



Teen Creative Challenges

PARTICIPATE IN DEMOCRACY

What does it mean to live in a democracy? Living in a democracy means everyone has the power to influence change in their community, state, and country by using their voice. Whether you create an informational zine for a cause you care about, write a letter to a representative, or attend a protest, you can help instigate change.

Get Creative!

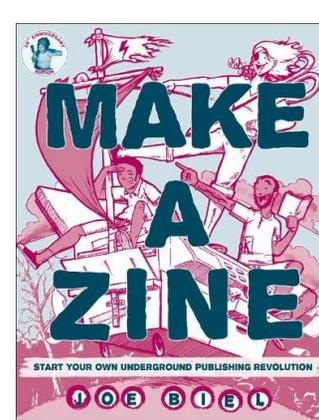
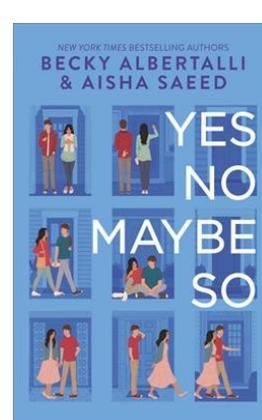
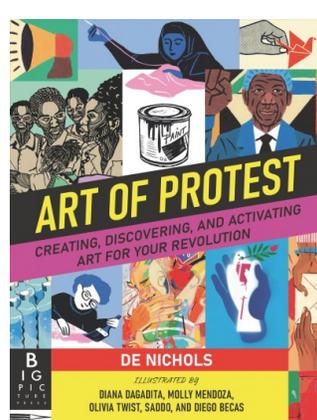
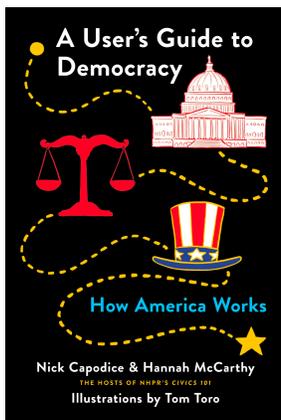
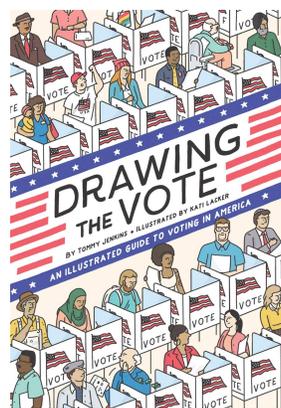
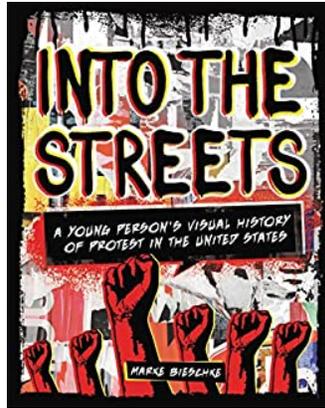
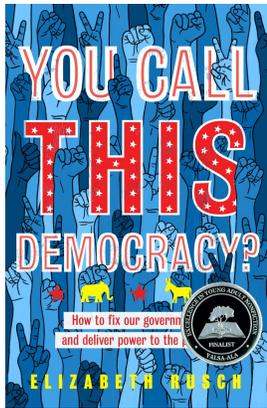
- Make a [zine](#) that teaches other teens about some aspect of democracy. Your zine could explain the importance of voting, what ranked choice voting means, or who are your current representatives. A good place to start researching is [NYPL's Teen Voter page](#) and [NYC Votes](#). For a tutorial on making zines, visit [@nyplteens](#) on Instagram and watch the saved zine highlights.
- Write a letter to a politician telling them what your community needs. Use [New York City Community Health Profiles](#) for data on different communities in NYC.
- Make a protest sign for an issue you care about! Protesting for a cause that demands change can be an important part of maintaining a healthy democracy. Look through [images of demonstrations from NYPL's digital collections](#) and the Schomburg Center's [Black Power! digital exhibit](#) for inspiration. We also recommend the Museum of the City of New York's [Activist New York exhibit](#).

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 to learn more about what it means to live in a democracy and how you can participate to make a difference.



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