



Expanding Your Impact

Using Your Voice to Inspire Action

The idea: Your voice, what you say, post, and share, can move other people to act. Used well, especially online, it can inspire far more people to serve than you could ever reach one at a time. The trick is to inspire, not lecture, and to always point people toward something real to do.

“Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing.” — Albert Schweitzer

“Raise your words, not your voice. It is rain that grows flowers, not thunder.” — Rumi

“The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.” — Alice Walker

FACILITATOR NOTES

Time. about 60–90 minutes total. Works in a classroom, youth group, or club. No materials or cost required.

Service today. Pick one option in Serve below and set it up before you begin.

Warm-up (10 minutes)

FACILITATOR NOTES

Keep this quick, short answers are great. Read the questions together.

- Think of a post or video that actually made you want to do something. What made it work?
- What's the difference between a post that inspires you and one that just makes you feel preached at?
- Why do you think seeing a real person do something moves us more than being told to?
- How could the things you already post be used to get people serving?

Learn (10–20 minutes)

You have a voice, and these days it carries further than any generation's before, especially online. A single honest post, story, or video can reach more people than you could talk to in a year. That reach is power, and like any power it can be used well or wasted. Used well, your voice inspires people to act: it shows them what's possible, makes service look doable and worthwhile, and gives them a clear way to join in. The key is that inspiring isn't the same as lecturing or arguing. People rarely act because they were told to or lost an argument; they act because something moved them, a real story, a real person, a real need, paired with a simple invitation to help. And the most powerful tool most young people have for this is already in your pocket. Social media gets a bad reputation, but aimed at good it's remarkable. You can show real service as it happens, and celebrate the people who help. One post can turn into a dozen new volunteers, reaching people no flyer ever could.

Using your voice well, online or in person, means:

- Leading with something real: a story, a person, a moment, not a lecture.
- Pointing to action: every message ends with a clear, doable way to help.

- Keeping it genuine: you're inspiring people to serve, not chasing attention for yourself.

A closer look. After spending a Saturday building wheelchair ramps for neighbors who couldn't get out of their homes, a teenager posts a short video, not polished, just honest: a few clips of the crew working, the finished ramp, and a simple line, "We're doing this again next month. Come help, here's how." It gets shared around her school. At the next build, eleven new people show up because of that one post, people she'd never have reached by asking face to face. She didn't lecture anyone or argue about anything. She just showed something real and said: come do this with me.

Why your voice matters. Here's something easy to underestimate: people are moved to act mostly by other people, not by institutions, statistics, or ads. A peer who shares something real and says "come do this with me" is more persuasive than any campaign. And online, that voice scales: one post can reach hundreds, and the people it reaches are exactly the ones a flyer would miss. That's a genuine kind of power, and it cuts both ways. The same reach that can inspire a crowd to serve can also spread noise, negativity, or showing-off. Using your voice for good means aiming that reach at something worthwhile: telling true stories, lifting up the people doing good, and always making it easy for someone to go from "that's cool" to actually helping.

How to use your voice well. Whether you're posting online or speaking up in person, a few habits make your voice actually move people. You can:

- Tell a real story: show an actual person, moment, or need, since specific beats general every time.
- Always include the ask: end with a clear, simple way to help, when, where, how, a link.
- Use the platforms you already have: a post, a story, a short video can reach people no flyer will.
- Celebrate the helpers: thanking and spotlighting people who serve quietly recruits the next wave.

Keep these in mind.

- **Show, don't preach.** A real story moves people; a lecture makes them scroll past. Inspire, don't argue.
- **Always point to action.** Inspiration with no next step fades. Give people something specific and doable.
- **Protect people's dignity.** Get permission before posting anyone, and never show the people you serve in a way that embarrasses them.
- **Keep it positive and honest.** Lift people toward good; don't tear others down, exaggerate, or make it about chasing clout.

Serve (30–60 minutes)

Today you'll put this into practice in a real service activity. Here are ways to do it:

Option A — Share one real story *(no cost, works in any setting)*

After your next act of service, use your voice to inspire one more person: tell a real, specific story about it, in a post, a short video, or just face to face, and end with a clear invitation ("we're doing this again Saturday, come with me"). Show what happened, then make the ask. Moving even one person from watching to helping is your voice doing exactly what it's for.

Option B — Run a “come serve” campaign *(low cost, a bit more effort)*

As a group, put your voices to work recruiting for a real project. Make a few genuine posts or short videos, the work, the people, the need, each ending with exactly how to join, and share them where your community will see them. Keep it honest and action-focused, not about looking good, and aim every post at filling real volunteer spots. Then count how many new people show up because of it.

Option C — Become a voice people follow for good *(more effort; ongoing)*

With your mentor's help, build an ongoing way to keep inspiring service: a group account or simple newsletter that regularly shares real stories, spotlights helpers, and posts easy ways to get involved. Keep it positive, honest, and always tied to action. A steady, trusted voice for good slowly turns an audience into a community of people who serve.

Before you go (all options): Keep it safe and kind online. Don't share personal information, yours or anyone else's, and get permission before posting anyone, especially the people you serve, who deserve privacy and respect. Have your mentor review what your group posts, keep accounts and comments positive, and never get pulled into arguments. Use platforms appropriate for your age, and let an adult handle anything that turns negative.

Reflect (10 minutes)

FACILITATOR NOTES

After serving, talk through a few of these together, then give everyone quiet time to write.

What did you say or post, and did anyone act because of it?

What difference did you notice between inspiring people and just informing them?

How does using your voice online change how many people you can reach, and the responsibility that comes with it?

How did you make sure you respected the dignity of the people in your story?

Then finish one or both sentences:

A real story I could tell to inspire others to serve is...

One way I'll use my voice, online or in person, to point people to action is...