



## Interactive Activity Climate Change Spoken Word

### Objectives:

- Have students experiment with the spoken word art form to share their learning about climate change
- Have students learn about spoken word poetry as an extension of traditional oral storytelling
- Learn how to develop key messaging for awareness building around solving climate change
- A great way to combine English, Science and Social Studies disciplines

### Overview:

Climate change communication and awareness building can take many form and needs to be very different depending on the audience you are trying to reach. As part of this interactive, students will learn about and then develop a spoken word work, performing it for their classmates, school or community.

### Action Steps:

- Students watch Phil Kaye’s “Why We Tell Stories” TedX talk that explores how spoken word is a natural extension of oral storytelling traditions. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7fWagDQyvg>
- If possible, an Indigenous oral storyteller is invited to the class to share the importance of oral storytelling in their culture and nation, share a story, and highlight the important elements for a purposeful story that is memorable and experience-knowledge-rich
- Students are told to create their own spoken-word poem (these can be individual or working in pairs) about climate change with the added challenge that these both demonstrate knowledge about climate change causes and impacts AND ALSO provide a message of hope
- For reference, students watch “Skeletons in our Closet” by Noah Stolee (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjoKxBTb3NU&t=5s> ) and also explore the Climate Museum’s poetry slam at Harlem’s Apollo Theater (<https://www.nrdc.org/onearth/watch-these-young-spoken-word-poets-take-climate-change>)
- Students perform their spoken-word poems at a “Climate Change Poetry Slam” in the classroom, at a school assembly or at a community event.

### Extension:

- Students work with a media arts / film class to create a video of their spoken poem.