

I Am Festival 2022

Unity in protest

For learners with MLD (Moderate Learning Difficulties)

Based on activities in a 1-hour lesson plan: [The Power of Protest](#) from The Economist Foundation.



If something isn't fair, what can we do? Talk about it with other people? Unite and challenge the injustice? Show that there's a different way to do things?

As part of [I Am Festival 2022](#), Graeae Theatre Company has joined creative forces with Woodfield School to challenge the term 'SEND' as a community of D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent people. Their work will culminate in a creative protest on 21 June 2022, celebrating their identities in their own words. They will be bringing placards they've made to share their messages with a wider audience.

We invite you and your students to get involved in the placard parade, too – you just need cardboard, sticks, markers, and ideas! Take your students through the steps below and share your placards with us to be featured in our online Festival Gallery.

What matters to you? Is it labels and discrimination, lack of equality or maybe something else like climate change or fair trade? Is there something about where you live you think should be fairer? Use the platform of I Am Festival to showcase your creativity and send out a message for change!

Step 1

It's not right. It's not fair.

Think about something in your lives/in the world that is unfair.

Tell a partner about your idea and then share with the whole group.

How do you feel about these injustices?

Step 2

We are all in this together.

Choose an example from the sharing that everyone feels strongly about.

What can be done to protest about it? Make a group mind map or list of ideas.

Do any of the ideas in the map lend themselves to a role play or further activity?

Focus on demonstrations and street protests as an example of an action anyone can take part in.

Step 3

Say what?

Refine your protest message for your demonstration. Who would you like to tell?

Is your message

- A demand e.g. Save our trees! No more lies!
- A question e.g. The climate is changing so why aren't we?
- A fact or truth e.g. Black lives matter. Children are our future
- A play on an existing slogan e.g. Just DON'T do it!

Can you make your message no more than five words? Would a picture be better?

Step 4

Visual impact.

Design your placard.

Look at examples of placards on the internet. What makes a good one? Think about:

- Number of words?
- Pictures: cut-outs and drawings
- Colours
- Funny or serious?
- A series of placards that work together

For inspiration, look at the work of [Bob and Roberta Smith](#) and [Sonia Boyce](#), for example.

Step 5

Say it loud, make it strong.

Make your placard. Use strong cardboard and, if you can, mount it securely on a stick. Check how it looks from a distance.

Step 6

Unity in protest. Time to show the world.

When your placards are finished, show them to each other.

Do you want to **say** the words on them, or do they speak for themselves?

How will you share them in your school and beyond?

Share images of your placards with us here:
bit.ly/iemplacardsubmission

Please ensure parent/guardian photo permissions are in place for any photographs where students can be identified. If you need help or have questions, please contact:

- – Lynne Brackley – I Am Festival Producer:
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- – Jim Beck – Communications Manager: jim.beck@anewdirection.org.uk



What is I Am Festival?

[I Am Festival](#) is A New Direction's yearly celebration empowering D/deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent young people to explore their creativity. Over the past five years, the festival has provided a platform for hundreds of young people to showcase their talents, leadership, ideas and opinions.

Every year we work with schools in our [SEND Network](#) to create work based around a theme. Teachers in the Network have chosen **UNITY** as this year's theme.

[#IAmFestival](#)