

Day 1

Day 1		
Time	Activity	Students Do
10	Collective Whiteboard Brainstorm:	students talk about what
	Write "Activism" on the whiteboard.	activism means to them in
	Think-pair-write on board	pairs/groups.
20+	Q: "what comes to mind when you hear the term "activism?" Follow up questions - What is the root word? (act) - What does it mean to act? - Who are some activists you know about? - What actions do/did they take?	Each group writes their thoughts on the whiteboard to share with the class
	Agree, Kind of, Disagree	
	label two opposite walls as "agree" & "disagee"	As the prompts are shared
	Table the opposite halls as agree a alsagee	via PP, students position
	1. Activism is an essential tool for social change.	themselves within the
	2. Education can be a powerful tool for activism	"agree" "disagree" or "in-
	and raising awareness.	between" spaces.
	3. Global solidarity is necessary for addressing	
	international social justice issues.	Students share/discuss their
	4. Sovereignty activism is a legitimate and	reasoning with their peers
	important pursuit for marginalized	and each group shares out to
	communities.	the class.
	5. Activism has the power to transform political	
	systems, making them more responsive to	
	the needs of the people.	
	6. Activism often comes with personal risks.7. Activism leads to tensions between activists	
	and governments.	
	Picture book Collaborative Paragraph	
	Book: Malala's "A Magic Pencil"	Students work in groups to
		write a collaborative
	YouTube Read Aloud:	paragraph using one of the
	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ti8sirjR1C8	provided prompts to present
		to the class.
	Students listen and read the picture book as a class.	
	Students are divided into groups of 3-4 students to	
	write a collaborative paragraph inspired by one of	
	the following prompts:	



*pro	vide anchor chart paper	
1	Malala's Magic Pencil allows her to imagine and create change. How can imagination and creativity be powerful tools in activism?	
2	How can the power of storytelling, as seen in Malala's Magic Pencil, be used as a tool for activism and raising awareness about social justice issues?	
3	How can society support and protect activist who are at risk? What role do communities play in ensuring the safety of those advocating for change?	
4	Malala faces dangers and threats because of her activism. What risks are associated with speaking against injustice, and why do some individuals still choose to do so?	
Stude	ents can use the remaining class (if required,	
provi	ide time in the beginning of the next class).	
Stude	ents present their paragraphs to the class to	
sparl	k discussion on the prompt.	

Day 2

Time	Activity	Students Do
	Connect Learning:	
	Q: "Can someone share a point or idea from	
	yesterday's lesson that stood out to them or made	
	them think differently about activism?"	
	Intro: Jaswant Singh Khalra:	
	PP about JSK focusing on his advocacy against	
	enforced disappearances in Punjab.	
	Think-Pair-Share: After reading the short excerpt,	
	who do you think Jaswant Singh Khalra was? What	
	happened to him? How is this important?	
	"In 1995, the Punjabi Police abducted, tortured, and	
	murdered human rights defender Jaswant Singh	
	Khalra for his work in uncovering thousands of	
	disappearances, unlawful killings, and secret	



cremations of Sikhs perpetrated by the Punjab Police. It took ten years to bring Khalra's murder to trial.."- Ensaaf

Watch: Jaswant Singh Khalra- Last Speech https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6wGpWd9UUAQ
Transcript Provided – listen to as much or as little as you would like

Q: "What do you think was Khalra's mission"

Reflective Writing:

*students will be sharing out Provide students with a reflective writing handout which includes the following image (by Rupi Kaur) and prompt:

Reflect: Think about the fable Jaswant Singh Khalra mentions in the beginning of his speech about light and darkness. Now, write down what this drawing brings up for you. "What was the first thing that you had thought of when you observed it, in connection to the speech? Does the drawing have a story? What is it trying to communicate?" (Healing Through Words, Rupi Kaur, pg. 17)"



After 15-20 minutes, go around the classroom giving space for each student to share out an idea or connection

Whiteboard Table Tops

Provide each table group with a whiteboard marker to brainstorm ideas

*Students can work either work on this as a jigsaw, stations, or small-groups, however, finish with a classroom discussion for a wholesome learning experience.



- 1. What were some of the specific risks or challenges that Jaswant Singh Khalra encountered as an activist?
- 2. How did Khalra's advocacy work threaten those in power?
- 3. What lessons can we learn from Khalra's story about the dangers that activists face in advocating for social justice?
- 4. Despite knowing the dangers of activism, why do you think some activists continue their advocacy work?