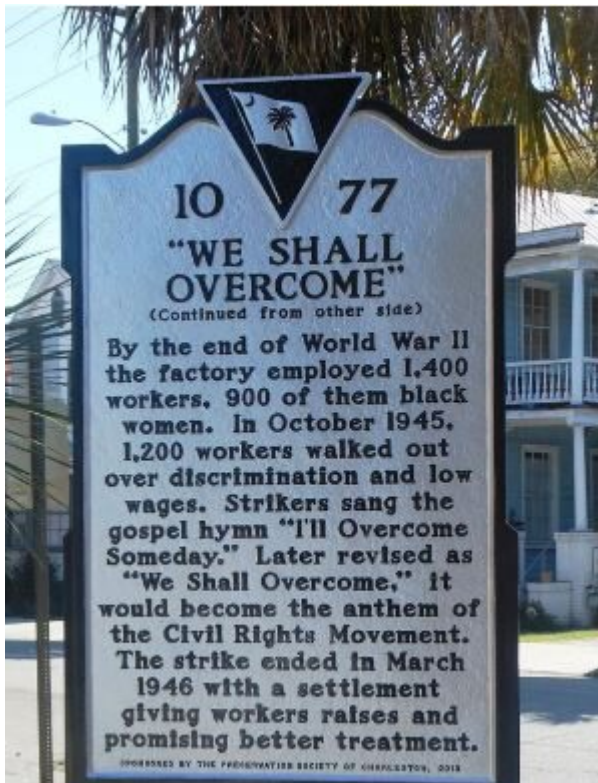


**Home page Feb 22 2023**

**Where Does “We Shall  
Overcome” Come From?**

**“We shall overcome,  
We shall overcome,  
We shall overcome, some day.  
Oh, deep in my heart,  
I do believe  
We shall overcome, some day.”**



<https://youtu.be/7aku0Fp-ET8>

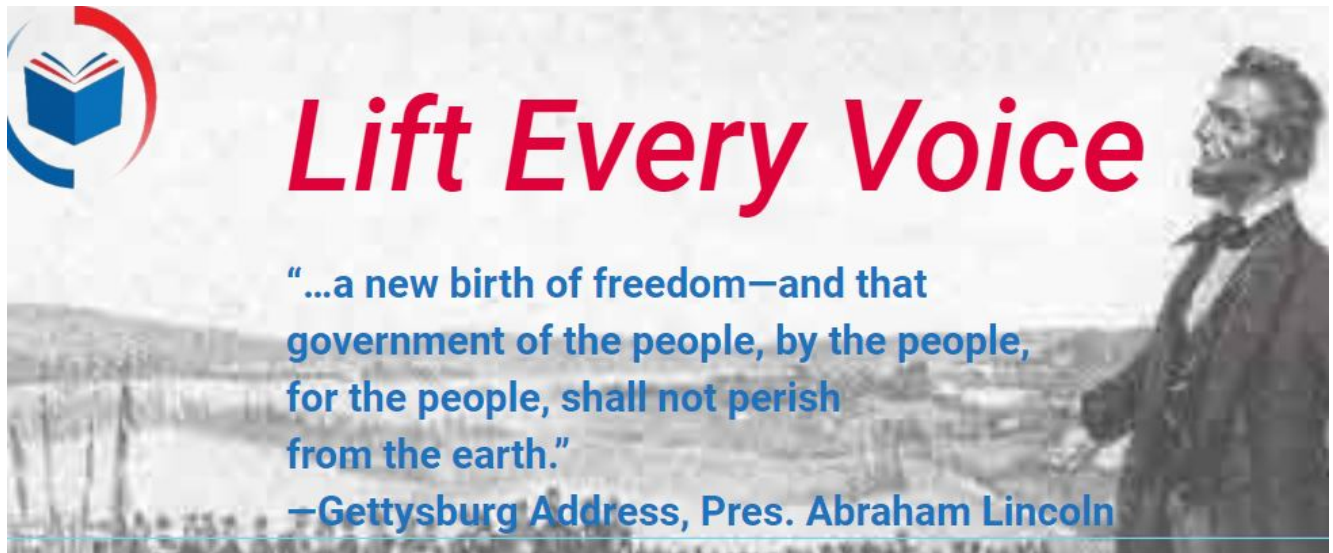
" "We Shall Overcome" is a gospel song which became a protest song and a key anthem of the American civil rights movement. The song is most commonly attributed as being lyrically descended from "I'll Overcome Some Day", a hymn by Charles Albert Tindley that was first published in 1901. The modern version of the song was first said to have been sung by tobacco workers led by Lucille Simmons during the 1945–1946 Charleston Cigar Factory strike in Charleston, South Carolina. Later it was published under the title "We Shall Overcome" in an edition of the People's Songs Bulletin by Pete Seeger."

[–Wikipedia](#)

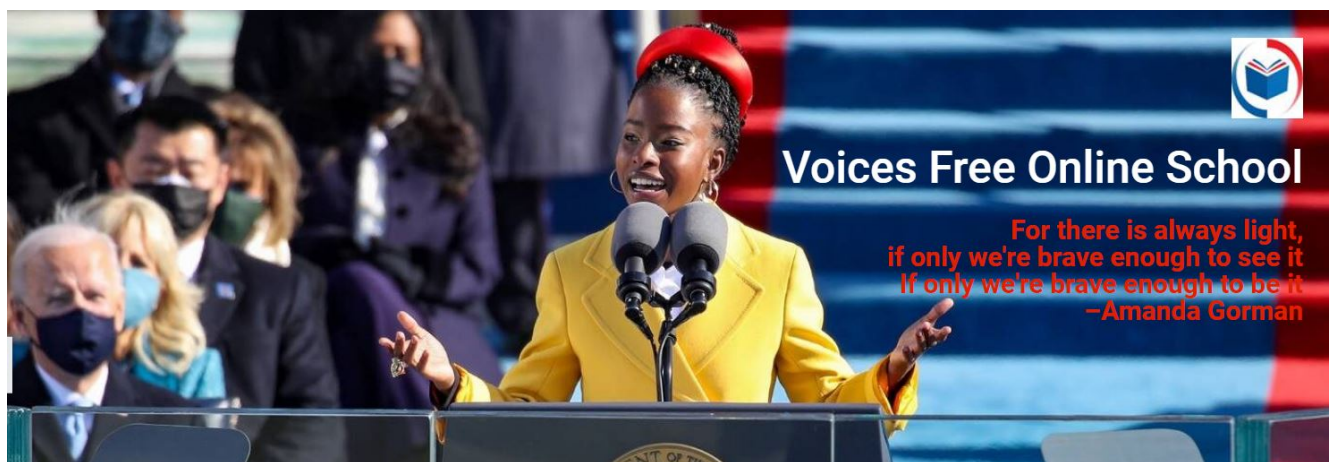
**Voices Institute is Committed to  
Supporting  
Children, Young People, and Adults  
in Our Country and Around the World  
to Lift Their Voices  
to Overcome the Obstacles that  
Divide Us  
and to Advocate for  
a More Compassionate, Just, and  
Free Democratic Country and World!**

**Voices Institute** provides two educational websites: *Lift Every Voice* and *Voices Free Online School*. The *Lift Every Voice Website* includes *Lift Every Voice Books* which provide background information on democratic values, skills, and knowledge. In the *Lift Every Voice Projects*, you can apply these democratic values, skills, and knowledge to some of the most important social and ecological problems of our day.

These projects conclude with delivering a speech advocating a solution to these problems. The *Voices Free Online School* provides *Lift Every Voice Minicourses* in which you can explore these democratic competencies and social and ecological problems in more depth.



[Click here to go to the Lift Every Voice website: Includes Lift Every Voice Books and Resources.](#)



[Click here to go to the Voices Free Online School website: Includes Lift Every Voice Minicourses.](#)



# What Are *Lift Every Voice* Books?




Book 1:  
Democratic  
Values



Book 2:  
Social-Emotional  
Skills



Book 3:  
Democratic Skills  
and Practices



”

“... a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

—Gettysburg Address  
(1863) President  
Abraham Lincoln

## *Lift Every Voice*

How can we create a more compassionate, just, and democratic country and world?



Book 4:  
Social and  
Ecological Awareness



Book 5:  
Democratic  
Knowledge

The *Lift Every Voice Books* focus on five major democratic competencies, beginning with Book 1: Democratic Values and

then Book 2: Social-Emotional Skills, Book 3: Democratic Skills and Practices, Book 4: Social and Ecological Awareness, and Book 5: Democratic Knowledge. We believe that the most important competency is the learning and applying of Democratic Values. Click here to view the Lift Every Voice website which includes both the Lift Every Voice Books and the Lift Every Voice Projects.



"We stand now where two roads diverge . . . The other folk of the road—the one less traveled by—offers our last, our only chance to reach a destination that assumes the preservation of the earth."  
—From *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson

[Click here to view the Lift Every Voice website.](#)

Democratic Values,  
Skills, and Knowledge  
"...that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the

earth."  
–Gettysburg

Address



Lift Every Voice  
Democratic Values: Guide and Unite Our Country  
“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning  
to breathe free.”  
–Emma

1.

Lazarus





Democratic Values, Skills, and Knowledge

2. Social and Emotional Skills:  
Stand in Other People's Shoes, Resolve Conflicts Non-Violently  
" We will be known forever by the tracks we leave In other people's lives, our kindnesses and generosity. Take the time to walk a mile in his moccasins."



—Mary T. Lathrap

Democratic Values,



Skills,

and

Knowledge



3. Democratic Skills and Practices: Advocate, Discuss, Debate, Negotiate

"Black Lives Matter was created as... a call to action for those who want to ...build a world where black lives do, in fact, matter."

—Alicia Garcia      Democratic Values, Skills, and Knowledge



#### 4. Social and Ecological

Awareness: Pursue Social Justice and Ecological Balance

"We stand now where two roads diverge . . . The other folk of the road...offers our last, our only chance to reach a destination

that assumes the preservation

of the earth." –Rachel Carson

Democratic Values, Skills,



Knowledge

#### 5. Democratic Knowledge:

Understand Our Democratic Rights and Protect Them

"We look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms...freedom of speech... freedom...to worship  
...freedom from want . . . (and)  
freedom from fear . . . anywhere  
in the world." –Pres. Roosevelt

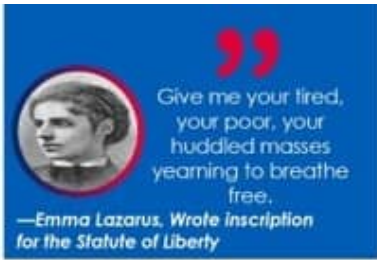
Democratic Values, Skills,





and Knowledge

***Lift Every Voice* Begins With  
Democratic Values**



# Lift Every Voice

How can we create a more compassionate, just, and democratic country and world?



8. Democracy



1. Love



2. Freedom



7. Peace



**Book 1:  
Democratic  
Values**



3. Equality



6. Care for Nature



5. Truth



4. Justice

*Lift Every Voice* seeks to help young people and adults to understand, embrace, and apply these democratic values as they research major contemporary social and ecological problems. They can integrate them into their proposals and speeches.

[Click here to Read More About Democratic Values](#)



“I’ve long talked about the battle for the soul of America. We must restore the soul of America. Our nation is shaped by the constant battle between our better angels and our darkest impulses. It is time for our better angels to prevail.”

—Election Eve Speech by President-Elect Joe Biden (Nov. 7, 2020)



"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

—Emma Lazarus

Lift Every Voice

1. Love: Care for Everyone

"Love is the most durable power in the world." —Rev. Martin



Luther King Democratic Values

2. Freedom: Pursue Your Dreams, Help Others to Pursue Theirs

"The secret of our success is that we never, never give up."

—Wilma Mankiller

Democratic Values



### 3. Equality: Treat

Everyone With Resped

"... a veteran, a mayor, happily married, asking for you to vote for me to be president of United States."

–Pres. Candidate

Pete Buttigieg

Democratic Values



### 4. Justice: Protect the

Rights of Everyone

"When I'm sometimes asked 'When will there be enough (women on the Supreme Court)?' and my answer is:

'When there are nine.'

–Former SCJ Ruth B. Ginsburg

Democratic Values



5. Truth: Seek  
and Speak the Truth

"Only the truth has the power to lead us to the beauty we seek  
in our democracy."

—Former Cong. John Lewis

Democratic Values



6. Care for Nature:



## Protect the Earth

“. . . Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings..."



—Pope Francis      Democratic Values

## Harmony With Others

"We can...build a great union that will secure the spirit of all people if we do it through a re-dedication and re-commitment

to the struggle for justice through non-violence." —Cesar Chavez

## 7. Peace: Live in

Democratic Values



## 8. Democracy: Vote and Participate in Governing Our Country

"We know in our heart of hearts that voting is a sacred right - the fount from which all other rights flow."



—Stacy Abrams      Democratic Values

**What Are *Lift Every Voice Projects*?**

# Lift Every Voice

How can we lift our voices to advocate for a more compassionate, just, and free country and world?



Six minutes and about 20 seconds. In a little over six minutes 17 of our friends were taken from us, 15 were injured and everyone, absolutely everyone in the Douglas community was forever altered....

—Emma Gonzalez  
March for Our  
Lives Speech,  
March 24, 2018



Project 1:  
Stop Gun Violence



Project 2:  
Stop the Pandemic



Project 3:  
Stop Police Violence



Project 4:  
Stop Global Warming

*Lift Every Voice* is designed to help people to learn and master these core democratic competencies and then apply these values, skills, and knowledge to advocating for ways to solve major social and ecological problems in our country and world. These are just four of the many problems that we need to



solve. They are just the beginning.

[Click here to Read More About the Lift Every Voice Projects](#)



“And as we lay you to rest today, the movement won’t rest until we get justice, until we have one standard of justice. Your family is going to miss you, George, but your nation is going to always remember your name because your neck was one that represented all of us and how you suffered represented our suffering . . . ”

–Eulogy for George Floyd by Rev. Al Sharpton



Social and Ecological Problems

Social and Ecological Problems	Stop the Pandemic
Social and Ecological Problems	Social and Ecological Problems
	600,000 Dead in the United

States By the End of May!

Stop Gun Violence

40,000 Dead Every Year From Gun Violence!



Social and

Ecological Problems

Stop Global Warming

Temperatures will continue to rise! More droughts! More Hurricanes! Sea level will rise 1-8 feet! Arctic will be ice free!

Social and Ecological Problems

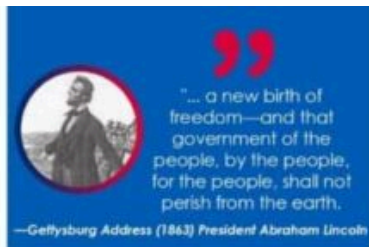
1,127 Persons Were Killed by Police in 2020!  
Ecological

Stop Police Violence  
Social and  
Problems



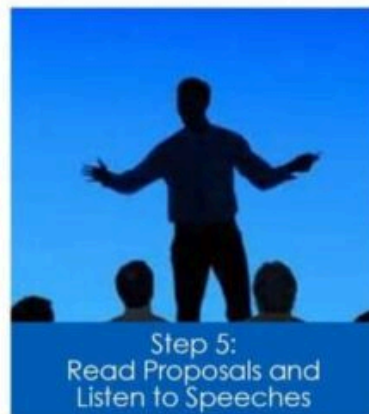
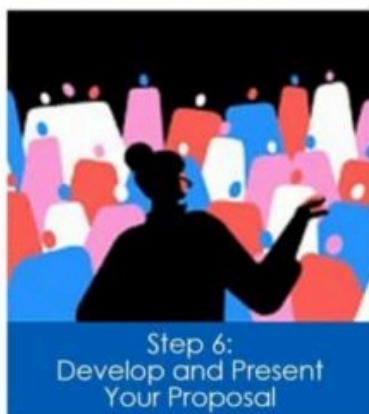
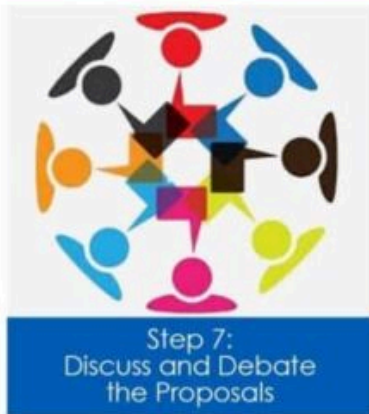
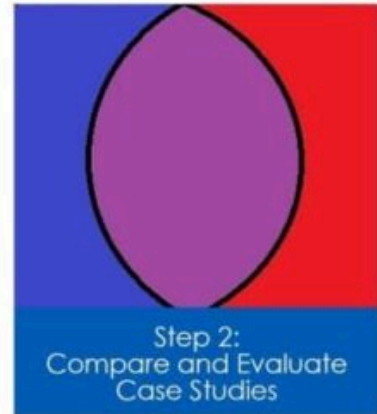
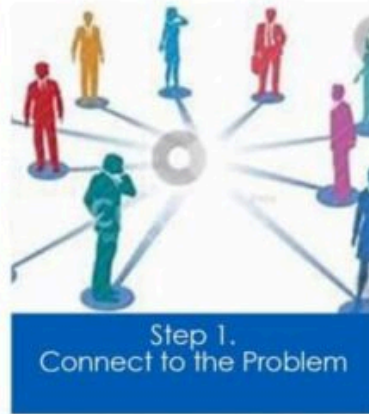
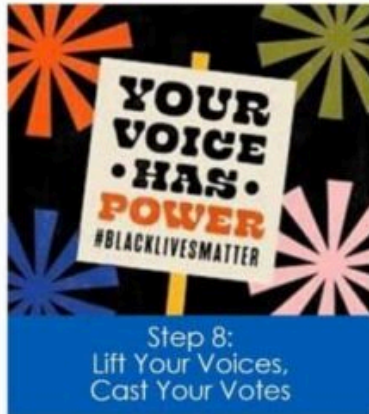
**Eight Steps for Lifting Our  
Voices**





# Lift Every Voice

How can we lift our voices to advocate for a more compassionate, just, and free country and world?



**Voices Institute**

*Lift Every Voice Projects* are organized into Eight Steps. In **Step 1: Connect to the Problem** you can explore what you know or have experienced about the problem. In **Step 2: Compare and**

**Evaluate Case Studies**, you try to get a handle on the problem by delving into case studies of the problem. While in **Step 3: Analyze the Data**, the objective is to get a broad understanding of all the facts related to the problem, then in **Step 4: Listen to and Share Stories**, you can listen to the stories of those affected by the problem and share your own study. **Step 5: Listen to and Read Proposals** begins the process of choosing your proposal by getting a broad understanding of state and local legislative proposals as well as the proposals of advocacy organizations. In **Step 6: Develop and Present Your Proposal**, you will develop your proposal, write out your speech, and deliver your speech on video. After that in **Step 7: Discuss and Debate Proposals**, you can listen to and discuss other people's speech and see if you can reach a compromise and common ground on how to solve the problem. Finally in **Step 8: Lift Your Voice, Cast Your Votes**, you will have the opportunity to vote on all the proposals and to lobby elected officials to support your proposal.

## What Are *Lift Every Voice* Minicourses?



**”**



"I want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is."

—Greta Thunberg, World Economic Forum, Davos, 24 January 2019




# Lift Every Voice


How can we lift our voices to advocate for a more compassionate, just, and democratic country and world?




**Book 1: Democratic Values:**  
Unite and Guide Our Country



**Book 2: Social-Emotional Skills:**  
Stand In Other People's Shoes




**Book 3: Democratic Skills and Practices:** Discuss, Debate, and Advocate



**Book 4: Social and Ecological Awareness:** Pursue Justice and Ecological Balance



**Lift Every Voice Minicourses**



**Book 5: Democratic Knowledge:** Understand and Protect Our Rights and Responsibilities



**Project 1:**  
Stop Gun Violence



**Project 2:**  
Stop Police Violence



**Project 3:**  
Stop Global Warming

The Voices Free Online School is being developed by Voices Institute to provide free digital resources and minicourses to young people in the United States and around the world that can help them learn how to create, maintain, and improve their

democratic institutions and culture.

Presently, some of these courses can be viewed. Hopefully they will all be available by Fall 2023.



[Click here to view the Lift Every Voice Minicourses on the Voices Free Online School Website.](#)

## Voices Provides Free Digital Resources and Minicourses

*Lift Every Voice* provides free digital resources which can help young people and adults to learn about these democratic competencies and then how to lift their voices to advocate solutions to major social and ecological problems in our society. All educational materials can be shared, downloaded, and embedded on their computers. Click on the buttons below to get to the Lift Every Voice Website where you can delve into *Lift Every Voice Books* and *Lift Every Voice Projects*. Click on the Voices Free Online School website to review the *Lift Every Voice Minicourses*.





## ***Lift Every Voice Books 1-5***

<https://lift-every-voice.voices.institute/>



## ***Lift Every Voice Projects 1-4***

<https://lift-every-voice.voices.institute/>



*Lift Every Voice Minicourses*

<https://online-school.voices.institute/>

**How Can We Save  
and Build Our Democratic  
Country?**

**By Advocating for a More  
Compassionate, Just,  
and Free Democratic Country and  
World!**

We envision young people and adults anywhere being able to go online and listen to empowering stories and speeches, share their own

stories, deliver their own speeches, and discuss their thoughts with other young people and adults about the best ways to create more compassionate, just, peaceful, and free democratic governments and societies.

Hopefully, *Lift Every Voice* will help us save and strengthen and improve our democracies.



**The better angels of our nature are the democratic values that we embrace and which can guide us as we seek to heal and unite our country!**



“Our history is defined by the youthful push to make America more just, more compassionate, more equal under the law. This generation—of Parkland of Dreamers, of Black Lives Matter—embraces that duty. If they make their elders uncomfortable, that’s how it should be. Our kids now show us what we’ve told them America is all about, even if we haven’t always believed it ourselves: that our future isn’t written for us, but by us.”

—Excerpted from “Cameron Kasky, Jaclyn Corin, David Hogg, Emma Gonzalez, and Alex Wind” by Barack Obama. *Time Magazine* (12/12/18)

## **How Can We Support the Growth of Democracy?**

## **How Can We Save Our Democracy?**

## **How Can We Restore the Soul of America?**

You can support the growth of democracy in our country and around the world by helping young people and adults anywhere gain free online access to *Lift Every Voice*.

*Lift Every Voice* can help young people and adults to master core democratic competencies with a primary emphasis on using their voices to tell their stories and to deliver speeches advocating for ways to create a more just and democratic society wherever they live.

The mastery of these competencies can empower young people to overcome the social obstacles in their lives, to attain important personal goals, and to contribute to creating more compassionate, just, and free societies.



The growth of democracy in any one country is limited by the growth of democracy worldwide.

The growth of democracy anywhere fosters the growth of democracy everywhere.