

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM

One of the overarching themes in *Of Natural Causes* and the current work of the De la Torre brothers is the urgency of climate change and how human actions can be detrimental to our earth and animal systems. In the De la Torre's *Game Warden* piece, we looked into the idea of overhunting animals and what might happen to the world if nature is not kept in balance. Many young people are currently taking climate activism into their own hands, starting a revolution of a new generation able to make change. In this lesson, you will research environmental activism and hopefully discover a cause you would like to contribute to.

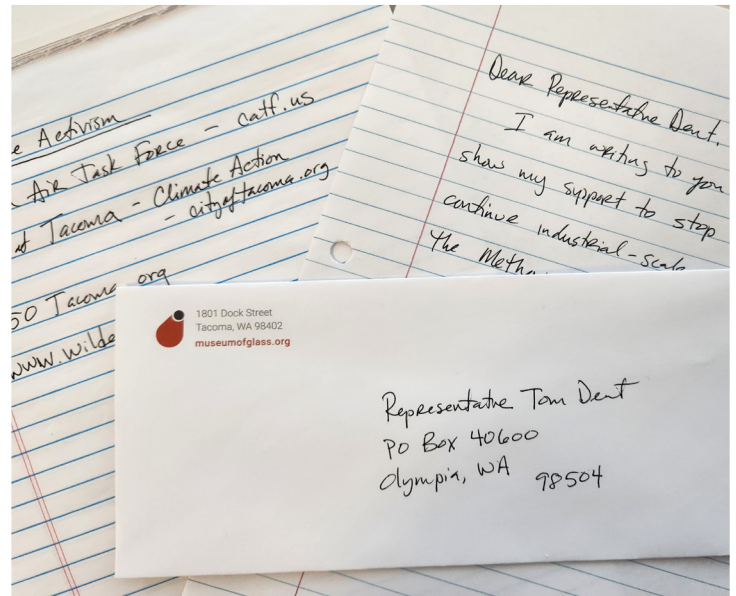
LEARNING STANDARDS:

C4: understands civic involvement

SSS2.6-8.1: create and use research questions to guide inquiry on an issue or event

MATERIALS:

Pencil or pen
Paper
Envelope
Stamps
Internet access



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Research environmental activism online. In the Pacific Northwest, where Museum of Glass is located, there are currently efforts to suppress a new airport to be built in a greenway next to a large national park, which would have a drastic impact on wildlife living there. There are also efforts to save a local orca pod (J Pod) that relies heavily on Chinook salmon to survive. Plans for opening up a Pebble mine in Alaska that would affect salmon habitats and waters in the Pacific Northwest were thwarted due to community campaigns that garnered the attention of the Environmental Protection Agency, which effectively banned such mines in perpetuity. What environmental and industrial activities are happening where you live? Use the internet to discover a cause you would like to support, or dive deeper something already meaningful to you.
2. Once you have chosen a topic of interest, use the internet to find local groups who support the same cause. Research some ways you can get involved.
3. Write a letter to your local legislators – city council members, congressmen, senators – and tell them why you feel your cause of choice is important and what needs to be done to support it. Remember, even though you may not be of voting age, these are still your legislators placed in office to represent you.
4. Share your environmental activism and cause with your family, friends, or classmates.