

FACILITATOR GUIDE: DIY Pledge**GRADE: 6th - 8th****CONCEPTS & SKILLS:****Reading Standards for Informational Text**

- **RI.6.7.** Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.
- **RI.7.7.** Compare and contrast a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version of the text, analyzing each medium's portrayal of the subject (e.g., how the delivery of a speech affects the impact of the words).
- **RI.8.7.** Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea.

MATERIALS & RESOURCES:

- Access to Internet
- Definition, synonyms, and examples of *Pledge* (included below)
- Note paper and pens or pencils
- Art supplies- various mediums depending on students project

PRESENTATION:

Share examples of pledges with students. Explain to students that anyone can write a pledge. Talk about the purpose and goals of writing a pledge. A pledge is a promise to act in a specific way in the future. The Pledge of Allegiance refers to how we act as citizens of this country. A pledge can also refer to our behavior as citizens of Earth. If you were creating a pledge to be a good citizen to the environment what would it look like?

DIRECTIONS:

1. Review the definition and synonyms for pledge. Use examples of different formats of pledges to do the following exercises based on grade level:

Sixth Grade- View a various formats and write a summary of the different formats before going to step two.

Seventh Grade- Have students analyze and briefly summarize the differences in a written pledge, musical pledge, and representational art. Also note if and how art and music impacts their experience.

Eighth Grade- Have students note the advantages and disadvantages of a particular format and then use that format for their pledge creation after completing step two.

- Listen to Earth Mama’s song; Earth Pledge: [Earth Mama Music/Buy or Hear](#)
 - Look for “Grass Roots” cd or “Earth Mama” cassette
 - <http://www.earthmama.org/buyhear.php>
 - Watch a presidential inauguration – search past presidential inaugurations
 - Read the [Hippocratic oath](#)
 - The 4-H, Olympic, and Environmental Graduation pledges- see below
 - Look for illustrations and music that are symbolic of environmental pledges
- 2. Have students make a list of goals they feel are important in their relationship with nature. These goals can be used to write the actions part of the pledge.
- 3. Using their notes and goals, students can create a pledge of their own expressing how they want to behave in relation to the environment. Students can use a variety of formats to create their pledge; song, poem, create a plaque, flag, video, etc...

TIME:**45 min**

DEFINITION-

Pledge; *noun*

1. A solemn promise or agreement to do or refrain from doing something: *a pledge of aid; a pledge not to wage war.*
2. Something delivered as security for the payment of a debt or fulfillment of a promise, and subject to forfeiture on failure to pay or fulfill the promise.
3. The state of being given or held as security: *to put a thing in pledge.*
4. *Law*
 - A. The act of delivering goods, property, etc., to another for security.
 - B. The resulting legal relationship.
5. Something given or regarded as a security.

SYNONYMS:

Vow, promise, assurance, guarantee, undertaking, word of honor

EXAMPLES OF AN OATH AND PLEDGE-

4H Pledge- I pledge my head to clearer thinking, My heart to greater loyalty, My hands to larger service, and my health to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

Olympic Oath: *In the name of all the competitors I promise that we shall take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, committing ourselves to a sport without doping and without drugs, in the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of sport and the honor of our teams.*

Graduation Pledge of Social and Environmental Responsibility: *I pledge to explore and take into account the social and environmental consequences of any job I consider and will try to improve these aspects of any organizations for which I work.*

Hippocratic Oath- Classical and Modern Versions at:
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/body/hippocratic-oath-today.html>