

AREA/S OF FOCUS	Community engagement, awareness building, education
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	Create a song (and accompanying movements) to use as a teaching tool for technical /scientific information.
TARGET GROUP	Stakeholders, Students, community members, staff and volunteers
INTENDED OUTCOMES	To build awareness of the subject matter in a fun and memorable way
TOTAL TIME	Varies
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	Two or more people
MATERIALS	Device with camera, or smart phone with audio and/or video recording capacity (optional), instruments, music, paper & pen/pencil.
SETTING	Anywhere

INTRODUCTORY FRAME

Music can be used to spread environmental messages in a positive and memorable way. Today we will communicate the message you want to share by adapting the lyrics of a popular song and adding movement as a way to reinforce the message of the song lyrics in a kinesthetic way.

PROCESS

STEP 1 – Write the song

- Select a song creation method, which best suites you and/or your group. Possible methods are: modifying the existing lyrics of a popular song, adapt a folkloric or traditional song to reflect modern social or environmental issues, or creating an original tune and lyrics.
- Once you have selected the song you will use, determine the key messages you want to communicate.
- You can work individually or break into small groups and divide up the different verses/chorus of the song to write lyrics that fit the melody.

STEP 2 – Create movement (optional)

- Consider creating a movement for each verse, the chorus, or the whole song.
- The movement or action can be a physical translation of what is being sung, or abstract movements that reflect the feeling of the song.
- You can also use popular, recognizable dance moves and make them relate to what you are saying.

STEP 3 – Combine and rehearse

- Combine the music, lyrics and movements. Determine what each participant is responsible for.
- If working alone, practice singing the song while doing the movements. If working in a pair or group, have participants decide what they would like to do (sing, play music and/or do the movements)

STEP 4 – Teach the song and movement

- Possible methods:
 - Have one person teach the movements to the audience first and then do them while the song is performed.
 - Have the entire group sing and do the movement together section-by-section.
 - Break the audience into different groups – a song group, movement group, music/instruments/rhythm group
- If possible, use a projector to project the song lyrics on the wall or hand out printed copies of the lyrics for people to sing along.

STEP 4 – Document and share

- Document the song by video, audio or through pictures.
- Present the video, audio, and/or photo series as a teaching tool to your stakeholders.
- Organize opportunities to perform and teach the song and movements with the community.
- Contact your local radio and TV stations to broadcast the song and video to spread your message to the community at large or to specific target audiences.