



Words Into Action

During Black History Month, we honor the achievements of African Americans in science, politics, business, arts, sports, and literature. Because the achievements of African Americans were once ignored by historians, this is an opportunity to give voice to those people and ideas that were muted in their own time. The challenge this month is to celebrate diversity through **advocacy**, which means “the act of supporting a cause.” You can do this by lending your voice to the words of famous African-American advocates and turning those words into positive action.

HOW TO:

1. READ about the life and work of the famous African-American Advocates below.
2. GET a new quote each week from the calendar below.
3. SHOW the quote—put it on a t-shirt, make a poster, post it on Facebook, paint a mural, get creative! Make sure it’s displayed for at least a week.
4. SAY the quote to someone new each day. Be ready to answer questions about the person who said it and what the quote means to you.
5. LIVE the week’s quote. Each day, let the quote inspire at least one good action.

Did you do this project?

Click here to track your service.

You can find these forms online at generationon.org/global/big-happenings/project-month

About the Advocates

- **President Barack Obama** and his family set a standard for Americans to give their time, talent, and treasure for the common good and encourage people to make a lifelong commitment to service.
- **Harriet Tubman** led slaves to freedom and battled for social reforms and justice for African Americans.
- **Jackie Joyner-Kersey**, one of the world’s greatest female athletes, is a philanthropist who has dedicated her life to the development of young people.
- **Oseola McCarty**, after 70 years of hard work and saving as a laundress, made a gift of \$150,000 to the University of Southern Mississippi to help needy students.
- **W.E.B. Du Bois** was a central figure in the history of African-American politics who defended justice.
- **Frederick Douglass** was an activist for social justice and an advocate for the abolition of slavery and elimination of discrimination.





Calendar of Quotes

January 29th – February 4th “There is but one coward on earth, and that is the coward that dare not know.” — **W.E.B. DuBois**, Sociologist, Historian, Civil Rights Activist

Action Ideas: Learn something new each day. Be brave! Read the Bill of Rights. Find out what was in the news on the day you were born. Get to know a classmate you don't usually talk to. Read a book you normally wouldn't choose to read.

February 5th – 11th “Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.” — **Harriet Tubman**, Abolitionist

Action Ideas: Dream big! If you could change your life, school, country, or world for the better, what would you change? Each day, write down a dream that you have. Find out what your classmates would like to change. Dream big for yourself, for others, and for the environment.

February 12th – 18th “It is better to be part of a great whole than to be the whole of a small part.” — **Frederick Douglass**, Abolitionist

Action Ideas: Do things for the common good, which means do things that help others. Pick up trash even if it isn't yours. Donate a book you don't read. Help your classmates by lending a hand or standing up against bullies. Choose actions that will help you reach the dreams you wrote down!

February 19th – 25th “Hard work gives life meaning. Everyone needs to work hard at something to feel good about themselves.” — **Oseola McCarty**, Philanthropist

Action Ideas: Go above and beyond on one task each day. Keep your dreams in mind when you are choosing what to work on. Study a bit longer — or help a friend study! Read a few extra pages. Do a REALLY good job on your chores. See how effective you can be when you put in extra effort!

February 26th – March 3rd “Nothing inspires me more than knowing that young people all across the country are already making their marks. They're not waiting. They're making a difference now.” — **Barack Obama**, President of the United States of America

Action Ideas: Plan a project to make your mark on the world. Think about the past month: what you learned and dreamed, who you helped, and how powerful you felt when you worked hard at something. You could make a work of art, start a project, or think up a new solution to an old problem! Check out generationOn.org for project ideas. You can even start a club through generationOn so you can lead your peers in advocacy!

