New Opportunities: Teaching Climate Change through Reading, Writing, and Social Studies Classes
# Climate Change and the Citizenship Paradigm

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Climate Change Belongs in the Humanities Discipline
A Big Year at Lowell

MAY
People’s Curriculum for the Earth Workshop

Bill Bigelow presented ideas for teaching climate and environmental studies to social studies students through a social justice lens.

2016

JUNE
Administrative Conversations

Talking with the Head of School, the Head of Middle School, and the middle school teachers about a new climate change course. Encountering excitement and resistance.

2016

NOVEMBER
Lowell School “Climate Summit”

Climate Generation sent trainers to Washington DC to create a day-long climate experience for a small group of teachers, parents, and administrators.

2017

SEPTEMBER
Curriculum Launch

Our first group of sixth graders began a year-long study of climate change.
The More the Merrier:
A Big Team Climate Education Team

Administrators
Humanities Teachers
Science Teachers
Learning Support
Climate Generation
How to Overcome (Teacher, Parent, Student) Opposition

1. Build the lessons from reading, writing, and social studies standards-- not science or climate standards
2. Use materials and resources that are current, from mainstream sources
3. Plan and conduct action projects that authentically benefit the community
The Secret to Success is Community Action

Learning about Climate Change Naturally Leads to Big Emotions

BALANCED ACTION
Planned Flexible
Meaningful Manageable
Student-led Teacher-guided
Too Cool for School:
Selection of Learning Activities

Fossil Fuels Museum

Windmills

Model Communities

Climojis
Plowing Ahead:

Because roads are for journeys, not for destinations

In collaboration with Climate Generation and other allies:

- Online reading guides for the memoirs and novels
- Online social studies lessons about climate change based on newspaper articles
- NCSS Conference (application completed) and NSTA Conference (apply next year)
- Climate change workshop at Lowell for Humanities teachers in Summer 2019
- Collaborate with Chesapeake Bay Foundation on overnight field trip
Tomorrow’s leaders need a strong understanding of civics, economics, and geography and masterful reading and writing skills to address our climate challenges. It’s up to us to prepare them.
Sources

- Rogers Adoption/Innovation Curve
- Gallup: Global Warming Concern at Three Decade High
- OxFam: Women.Food.Climate.
- HuffPost: Kids React to Climate Change