

## 1. Youth Visionary Profile

### Introduction

Students, up until now, have highlighted solutions, issues and organizations in different activities and projects. Now the class will have a chance to profile a youth visionary that is making changes in the community. Have the students use *Dream of a Nation* and media sources to search for youth citizens that are making a difference. The class will reach out to these visionaries to learn how they are effecting change and how to become more involved.

An essay titled “The Power of Young People to Change the World” by T.A. Barron is located on page 74 in *Dream of a Nation*. This essay highlights a number of young people who are creating change in their community and the world. Use this essay as inspiration for this activity as well as a starting point for discovering other youth leaders.

### Procedure

Using newspapers, media sources and the Internet, have students search for a youth visionary they would like to communicate with and learn more about. Individual students, student groups or the whole class can choose to contact a youth visionary to learn more about him or her. Students should first become familiar with the individual through newspaper articles and the Internet. Students should attempt to answer the following questions before contacting the individual:

- What issues is the individual involved in?
- What solutions is the individual encouraging?
- Is the individual involved in an organization?
- What motivates this individual?

Once you’ve completed these questions move onto the second set of questions, which will help students reflect on their goals and what can motivate them to become leaders in their communities.

- Are you involved in creating change in your community?
- What inspires you to create change in the community?
- How can you continue to create change in your community?
- What are you personal and overall goals for creating change in the community?

Have students hold onto their answers and use them as inspiration for the final activity in this lesson module, “What’s Your Dream?”

### Resources for Exploring Youth Leaders

<http://www.ashoka.org/youthventure>

<http://www.barronprize.org/>

<http://www.youthtoleaders.org/>