

Although people under the age of 18 are ineligible to vote, they can be informed about, and speak out on issues that are important to them. There are many ways of having a say or getting your point across on important issues.

Some ways people communicate their points of view

- Forming a new group, 'SADD – *students against drunk driving*'
- Attending organised marches or hikoī, '*March against Mining*'
- Attending organised meetings, hui, or forums, '*Unicef Youth Congress*'
- Writing to your Member of Parliament
- Starting a petition
- Documenting issues on film, still or moving.

DISCUSSION

Discuss other ways people can get their point across.

Have you, or anyone you know, been involved in speaking out for change? What are the negatives and positives of the suggested ways to communicate on important issues?



Every picture tells a story

A digital photo essay is a powerful medium for documenting and communicating issues in your community that are important to you. In various countries around the world Unicef has encouraged young people to speak out via photography in issues that affect them or their community.

'**A child's view - Do you see my world?**' is a photo essay that took place in Bangladesh. UNICEF, and partners, provided a selection of young people in rural Bangladesh communities with digital cameras in order to capture images or issues that reflected and affected their community.

DISCUSSION

Discuss the essay in groups or as a class.

- What is your initial reaction to the photos?
- What do you notice about the photos, people, emotions, settings?
- Can you identify issues or messages the photos are trying to portray?
- What impact do the captions have on the images and messages the photos are trying to share?
- Reflect on the technical aspects of the photos; angle, proximity, lighting, colours, and so on.

[SEE THE FULL STORY ›](#)

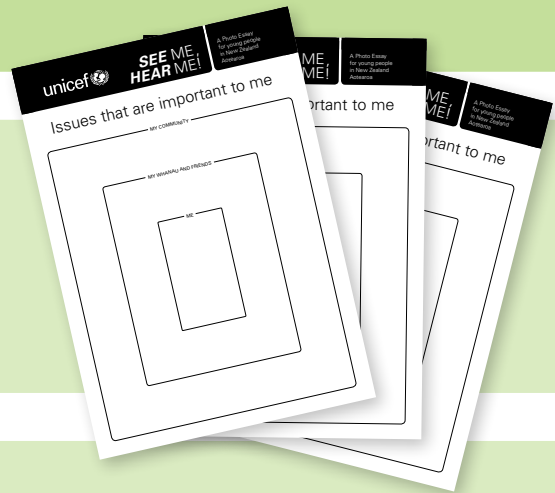
[VIEW THE PHOTO ESSAY ›](#)

Your challenge is create your own digital photo essay on issues that are important to you in your community that you think should be addressed by MPs and the General Election.

BRAINSTORM

Brainstorm to sort out your ideas and decide your focus.

[VIEW BRAINSTORM ›](#)



PLAN

Plan your essay. It needs to be a minimum of 10 photos and no more than 15 photos. Make sure you take a lot of pictures so you have plenty to select from. Publish your photos in a slideshow and include a caption for each photo. Make sure your caption is concise and reflects the issue you are communicating. The captions in the Bangladesh photo essay provide excellent examples.

Focus points:

- Your images must reflect an issue
- Keep in mind the issues you want to highlight so your essay stays on track.
- The point of your essay is to communicate issues that you feel should be addressed by MPs and the general election.



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SHARE

Share your published photo essays. Hold a class screening, you might even like to invite others to view the screening, or share a selection at your school assembly.

COLLABORATE

Collaborate and create a class essay to communicate the issues your class feels are important in relation to the General Elections. Email your essay to your local MPs, and encourage them to respond to your Digital Essay with an invitation to visit to your school to hear and respond to your points of view.

Issues that are important to me

MY COMMUNITY

MY WHANAU AND FRIENDS

ME