



Voices for Liberty: Adding your Voice

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About this Lesson

The Liberty Medal is an award presented by the National Constitution Center to a person, group, or idea that “demonstrates leadership and vision in the pursuit of liberty of conscience or freedom from oppression, ignorance, or deprivation.” This lesson is designed to introduce your students to the Liberty Medal and the 2007 recipients, Bono and DATA (debt, AIDS, trade, Africa). This lesson will allow your students an opportunity to gain knowledge about the National Constitution Center, the Liberty Medal, DATA and the Preamble to the Constitution as they practice democratic deliberation through researching and designing an action plan to support issues of global citizenship.

Students will finish the lesson by thinking of ways they can help DATA spread its message about justice and liberty through public action. They will also be asked to address the challenges students might face while participating in public action and brainstorm possible solutions.

This lesson is designed for one forty-five minute classroom period and is applicable for grades 7-12. It does not have to be limited to one class period and extension ideas are offered at the end of the lesson plan.

Grade(s) Level

7-12

Classroom Time

1 – 45 minute class period

Handouts

Voices of Liberty: Student Handout

Bono Biography

DATA-Fact Sheet

Action Plan Assignment

Constitution Connections

Preamble

Background

The 2007 recipients of the Liberty Medal, awarded by the National Constitution Center, are Bono and DATA (www.data.org). The award will be presented on September 27, 2007, at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. The Center is providing this lesson plan to promote the ideas expressed in the Preamble of the Constitution and then extend these ideas to affect an increasing global awareness in your classroom.

For more information about the vision behind the Liberty Medal and past recipients please go to www.constitutioncenter.org/libertymedal and click on Liberty Medal.

Objectives

Students will:

- Gain understandings about the following: National Constitution Center, the Preamble to the Constitution, the Liberty Medal, global citizenship, DATA
- Examine the criteria for the Liberty Medal
- Participate in democratic deliberation seeking group resolution
- Take public action to spread awareness about current global issues

Activity

Warm Up

- As students enter the room, have the following statement written on the board:
 - *The National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, annually awards the Liberty Medal. List three criteria you think the Center follows when they choose each year's recipient.*
- Ask students to examine the statement and prepare a list of three criteria they think the National Constitution Center uses when selecting a winner.
- Ask each student to pick the criterion they think is the most important and write it on the board.
- Allow five students at a time to go to the board and then hand off their marker or chalk to another student until every student has written their best criterion on the board.
- The teacher will lead the group through the criteria and create a list of 5-7 criteria that the class feels exemplifies what they think the Liberty Medal stands for. Circle or highlight the final selections of the class. Keep the list on the board for use later in the activity.

Primary Activity

1. Distribute a copy of the student handout, *Voices for Liberty* to each student. Choose a student to read aloud the sections: The Liberty Medal and the 2007 recipients.
2. The teacher will ask the students to reflect on the list they created and evaluate their ideas compared to the National Constitution Center's official criteria for the Liberty Medal. Ask students:
 - How does your list compare to the ideas and vision of the Liberty Medal?
3. Ask the class if they would like to change their list to reflect the new information they now have about the Liberty Medal?
3. Divide the class into groups of 3-5 students. Give half the groups a copy *Bono-Biography* and the other half a copy of the *DATA-Fact Sheet*. Ask the groups to read the instructions on the top of the second page of student handout and complete the column that matches the information they have been provided.
 - Encourage group participants to carefully deliberate on each term.
4. Once groups have completed their assigned column on the chart, ask each group to choose a representative to report on their findings. As groups report, students should take notes to complete the column the empty column on their chart and make revisions to their group's responses.
5. Once the groups have reported and all the students have a complete table, present the following questions for classroom discussion:

- How do the ideas presented in the Preamble to the Constitution connect to the goals of DATA and the advocacy of Bono?
 - On a global level, have Bono and DATA made a difference worthy of the Liberty Medal?
 - As persons living under the Constitution of the United States, how can we share concepts of liberty that we have with the whole world?
6. With students still in their groups, distribute the *Action Plan Assignment* handout. Provide the following instructions to the groups:
- Bono and DATA do not just promote awareness about the issues facing the global community; they also take action to address the problems.
 - As a citizen of the global community you too can take part in raising awareness by committing yourself to action.
 - Your assignment is to collaborate with your group to create a plan for action to raise awareness of issues that Bono and DATA represent in your own community.
7. To assess student work, you may wish to choose one of the projects listed in the Extension Ideas box below.

Extension Ideas

- Letter writing campaign: Younger students can write to an adult explaining the mission and message of DATA and Bono. Older students can write a letter to the local newspaper expressing their point of view.
- Design a community awareness webpage: Talk to your technology department and district officials to see if they would support your class as they launch and maintain a website devoted to spreading awareness about global issues.
- Global Mission Statement: Using the Preamble to the Constitution as a framework, ask your students to write a global mission statement.
- Character Connection: Ask your students to think of various character traits today's youth need to have to be effective global citizens (leadership, caring, courage, perseverance, responsibility, and citizenship) and ask them to share their ideas about how character affects positive change.

Voices for Liberty: Student Handout

I. The Liberty Medal

*The Liberty Medal was established in 1988 by We the People 2000 to heighten recognition of the principles that founded this nation and to serve as a lasting legacy to the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution. The Liberty Medal annually honors an individual or an organization from anywhere in the world that has **“demonstrated leadership and vision in the pursuit of liberty of conscience or freedom from oppression, ignorance, or deprivation.”***

2007 Liberty Medal Recipients: Bono and DATA

The National Constitution Center’s 2007 Liberty Medal will be awarded jointly to Bono, U2 lead singer and activist, and DATA (Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa), the advocacy organization he co-founded to combat poverty and disease in Africa. The prestigious Medal will recognize Bono and DATA’s groundbreaking work in raising awareness about and spurring a global response to the crisis of AIDS and extreme poverty in Africa.”

II. **The Preamble to the United States Constitution:**

“We the People of the United States, in Order to **form a more perfect Union, establish Justice**, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, **promote the general Welfare**, and **secure the Blessings of Liberty** to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

Instructions:

As a group, use the quotes on the previous page, to connect the ideas of the Preamble to the United States Constitution with the accomplishment and goals of the 2007 Liberty Medal recipients.

<u>Preamble</u>	<u>Bono</u>	<u>DATA</u>
We the People		
form a more perfect Union		
establish Justice		
promote the general Welfare		
Secure the Blessings of Liberty		

DATA – Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa FACT SHEET

Founded in 2002 by Bono, the lead singer of U2, Bobby Shriver and activists from the Jubilee 2000 Drop the Debt campaign, DATA is an advocacy organization dedicated to eradicating extreme poverty and AIDS in Africa. At the core of DATA's mission is a belief that these issues are not about charity, but about justice and equality.

DATA calls on the governments of the world's wealthy nations — the United States, the U.K., Germany, France, Italy, Canada, and Japan — to put more resources towards Africa and to adopt policies that will help Africans achieve long-term prosperity. DATA also calls on Africa's leaders to strengthen Democracy, Accountability, and Transparency in government so that Africa's citizens can ensure this assistance is being effectively deployed.

In 2005, DATA and campaigners around the world helped persuade the G8 to reach an unprecedented agreement that included \$25 billion in additional development assistance for Africa by 2010, broad debt cancellation, universal access to education, near universal access to AIDS and malaria treatment and prevention. If kept, these promises will save millions of lives and mark a turning point in the West's relationship with Africa. DATA is monitoring the G8's progress on keeping these commitments and holding government leaders to public account.

From their offices in Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles, DATA works with political, media and faith leaders to raise awareness about the human toll often hidden beneath poverty statistics and how we can save lives with tested, proven solutions. In partnership with the ONE Campaign, DATA is also helping to build a movement of Americans who want the U.S. to take a leadership role in this fight.

In Europe, DATA works to raise awareness and put pressure on other governments to do their part, especially members of the G8 and the EU who, alongside the U.S., have the world's largest economies. Through its new office in Nigeria, DATA is also on the ground in Africa, working with African leaders to gather information about which anti-AIDS and poverty interventions are working, and which are not.

BONO BIOGRAPHY

The lead singer of Irish rock band U2, Bono was born Paul David Hewson in Ballymun, Dublin. He met the Edge, Larry Mullen and Adam Clayton at school, and in 1978 the band was formed. Acknowledged as one of the best live acts in the world, U2 have sold over 140 million albums and won numerous awards, including 22 Grammys.

Bono is also a well known activist in the fight against AIDS and extreme poverty in Africa. In 2002, he cofounded DATA (debt, AIDS, trade, Africa) to raise public awareness of the issues in its name, and influence government policy on Africa. On behalf of DATA's agenda, Bono has lobbied U.S. Presidents and Congressional leaders, along with the heads of many other G8 nations. DATA is a founding member of ONE: The Campaign to Make Poverty History, part of a global network of millions of people campaigning against extreme poverty.

In 2006, Bono and Bobby Shriver launched Product (RED) to raise money from businesses to buy AIDS drugs for people in Africa unable to afford them. Product (RED) has an ongoing relationship with a number of iconic global brands that sell (RED) products and donate a percentage of the profits directly to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Bono also helped launch EDUN, an ethically sourced high fashion clothing company run by his wife Ali; EDUN produces clothing in developing countries including Africa.

Bono has received a number of awards for his music and activism, including the Legion D'Honneur from the French Government in 2003, Time Magazine's Person of the Year for 2005 (along with Bill and Melinda Gates), and an honorary British knighthood in 2007. Bono lives in Dublin with Ali and their four children

Action Plan Assignment

Instructions:

As a global citizen, you can express your voice of liberty. Use the questions below to develop an action plan. Using the activities of Bono and DATA as guides, create your own plan to address the needs of others and raise the voices of liberty.

- **How could you spread awareness about DATA in your school and community?**

- **Why should students get involved with spreading awareness on global issues?**

- **What type of resources would we need and how would we get them? (support of adults or materials)**

- **What would be challenges students of your age would face if they decided to take public action and add their voices to the cause?**