

### Post-Visit Activity

High School/middle school

Speaking Volumes: Transforming Hate  
“In your face” style message posters

In this activity students are asked to choose an issue they care deeply about, and would want to try and do something about. The issue should be something that is a general issue or concern in society somewhere in the world. Some ideas of things that students might be interested in depicting/standing up for or against: pollution/environmental concerns, abortion rights, racism,

homelessness, Aids, religious wars, the war in Iraq, poverty, verbal abuse, bullying, depression, teen suicide, discrimination, Gay rights...What do you CARE about? Talk to people- has anyone you know been affected by any of these? How? Why? How did it affect them?

#### Materials Needed (Student choice)

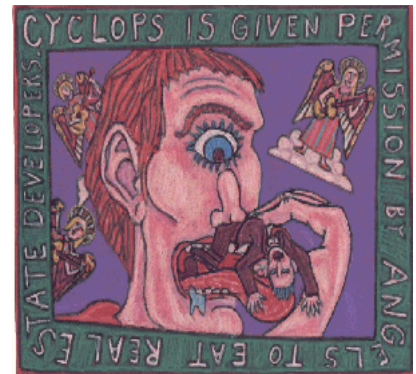
Colored pencils (Prismacolors)

oil pastels

soft pastels (might want to consider using dark paper like quality black drawing paper).

Combine with collage using newspaper or text from magazines - or text printed from Internet. Acrylic paint combined with collage might be interesting. Some may want to consider all collage using magazines and newspaper.

**Project Description:** Depict your social statement on a large sheet of paper. The image/message should be an “in your face” style; the image should be large and possibly cropped, going off the edge of the paper or depicting an unusual angle or scene. Think about what point of view you want to depict. Add minimal text (See art of Barbara Kruger) – or make it all about the words (see Jenny Holzer). Choose your color scheme carefully. You may want to choose a monochromatic color scheme (all blues, all reds, etc.) Be sure all white space on your paper is filled in.



Cyclops by Steve Shepard,  
[www.steveshepardart.com](http://www.steveshepardart.com)

**Written Assignment:** Write about the poster.

Questions to consider- Why do you feel the way you do about this issue? What are your arguments for or against? What – or who – has influenced your decisions? What is the “flip side” of your issue? What might the other side have to say? Can you see their point of view? What is your reasoning for choosing your stand? Is your artwork intended to offend? Who would be offended? Does the artist have a right to offend? Critique your project. Does it get your point across? How? Is there a focal point (center of interest)? Does it show effective use of Principles of Design? How?

**Resources (found on internet):**

**Sergio Hernandez** -[www.chicanarteyque.com/](http://www.chicanarteyque.com/)- Los Angeles artist who got his start as a cartoonist. See *Death Takes Frida!*

**Soraida Martinez** -[www.soraida.com/](http://www.soraida.com/)- Latino artist of Puerto Rican heritage - known as the creator of "Verdadism", a form of hard-edge abstraction in which paintings are juxtaposed with social commentaries. Many women's issues - and about minorities.

**Steve Shepard** – [www.steveshepardart.com/](http://www.steveshepardart.com/)- Work inspired by Edward Hicks. Bold colorful compositions with text borders. Powerful messages. Steve's work is black ink and Prismacolor on paper darkened with alizarin crimson watercolor - with text borders inspired by the Peaceable Kingdom (and others) by Hicks. Steve is fine artist from Mississippi - his work just has a "folk" appeal - his statements are political in nature.

**Marcia Yerman**-[www.marciagyerman.com/](http://www.marciagyerman.com/)- Don't be stopped by the image on her home page. Drawing, gouache, collage, mixed-media, or large-scale oil paintings, the themes are powerful - dealing with world issues - family and more. Work is both narrative and symbolic in nature.

Adapted from Sara Gant, teacher, North Carolina