

Young Changemakers – What is it?

PBS Wisconsin Education’s series, “Young Changemakers” features videos created by Wisconsin high school students that reflect the positive impact young people have on their community.

Call to Action

From raising money for local food pantries, encouraging local businesses to stop using plastic bags, to volunteering at a humane society, high school students across the world are working everyday to make the world a better place. For the PBS Wisconsin Education series “Young Changemakers,” tell us about a peer who is actively working to make a difference in your community. Whether they are creating art to decorate a local nursing home or making new students feel welcome on their first days of school, these students’ stories reflect the positive impact young people are having in their communities.

What is a Mini-Documentary?

The “Young Changemakers” series is a creative opportunity to explore innovative cinematography and unique storytelling techniques. A mini-documentary is a **three to five minute video** based on a **real person and real events** with a **clear theme or message**. Mini-documentaries **create emotional connections** for viewers, encouraging them to care about the changemaker in the video.

Creating an **engaging story** of the changemaker’s experiences, your video should bring viewers into the changemaker’s world, helping the viewer see the world from the changemaker’s perspective. Your story can be told creatively – infusing audio, video, and graphics – but should **describe the changemaker’s past, present and future**. Paint a picture of what led the changemaker to their work, what they are currently doing to create change and what their plan is to continue making a difference in the future.

How to Choose your Changemaker

Not sure who to choose as the changemaker for your mini-documentary? Ask yourself these questions to help generate ideas about who you could feature:

- What problems are in your community? Who do you know that is actively working to resolve the problem?
- What issues are important to you and your peers?
- Which after school clubs or organizations are doing positive activities in your community?
- Who do you know or have you heard about who is working toward a change in your local community or school?
- How have you noticed your peers responding to or acting upon issues they care about?