Collage of Concerns
Objective: Students will create mixed media art piece expressing their personal unique perspective on the topics of concern in their community and in the world.

Topics & Keywords for Discussion:
Social Justice: Social justice is the equal access to wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society.
Activism: efforts to promote social, political, economic, or environmental reform with the desire to make changes in society.

Materials: Newspaper, magazines, scissors, glue sticks, construction paper, drawing paper, posterboard.

Opening activity: Have students share what they know about Martin Luther King Jr… also invite them to name other civil rights or human rights leaders that they've heard of. Ask them to share their feelings about current events pertaining to human rights and other areas of activism: environment & conservation, animal rights, social justice in education, etc. Share with students what YOU know about civil rights or human rights causes in the world.

Core Activity: Have students decide on a cause or community concern they want to illustrate in a collage. They can pair up to work together or work on their own. Share materials with students. Encourage them to experiment with combining different images based around the cause or concern of their choosing. Help very young students cut out desired images. In addition to recycled materials, students can also add in their own illustrations, words and phrases to emphasize social justice, anti-bias or diversity issues from the central text. Students can also include possible solutions or imagined changes that relate to their concerns.

Reflection: Have students share about their collages with the whole group and brainstorm together possible solutions for each concern. We are all in this together: in the community and in the world. How can we make a better world or community together? How can students play a role in changing the world for the better? What can you do to make a difference?