

# Changemaker Challenge

## Art Guide



Shining light on those  
making the world brighter

students  
r\_build

# Welcome to the Changemaker Challenge Art Guide!

For this year's Changemaker Challenge, we're asking you to think about the people who make a difference in your life, in ways big and small, and create an AWARD just for them.

A blue ribbon for being kind. A gold medal for good neighbors. A silver star for speaking up. A badge of honor for brave leadership and activism. A homemade trophy for helping out.

You can use your creativity, imagination, and whatever materials you have available in your home or classroom to create a fun award celebrating the changemaker of your choice.

What do you think of when you think of awards? We think of...



...but, it's up to you to decide what kind of award you want to make (even if it's not listed above!) and which materials you want to use.



# The Basics

## 1. First, chat and learn!

For this activity, explain that a changemaker is someone who takes any action to help and to show kindness to someone else. Anyone can be a changemaker!

Talk with students about what it means to be a changemaker—and help them identify changemakers in their schools, homes, and neighborhoods—including themselves! Educators can learn more about changemakers through our recommended **lesson plans** or create their own lessons about what it means to make a difference.

## 2. Then, think!

Students should then decide which changemaker in their life they want to make and award for, and why.

A changemaker can be a friend, neighbor, community member, teacher, family member, or other good human! Stumped on selecting someone you know? Students can also create awards for changemakers in history – or – students can recognize themselves as changemakers.

## 3. Next, get creative!

Determine what kind of artistic award students will make, or let students decide for themselves. The type of award you make might be based on what kind of class time, abilities, expertise, and materials you and your students have available in the classroom, or, at their homes.

As mentioned above, you can make any kind of award you want, in any style, out of any materials.

For example:

- Awards can be paper certificates that you draw, collage, or design on the computer
- Awards can be trophies you construct out of recycled materials, like aluminum cans and old toys





- Awards can be ribbons and medals you create out of felt, jar lids, bottle caps, paper, or fabric
- And, awards can be anything else your creativity, ideas, and skills help you make

Don't forget! Awards should include the recipient's name, and why they are receiving the award. If you're thinking of giving the award to your changemaker, you can use our handy Award Certificate to help complete this requirement.

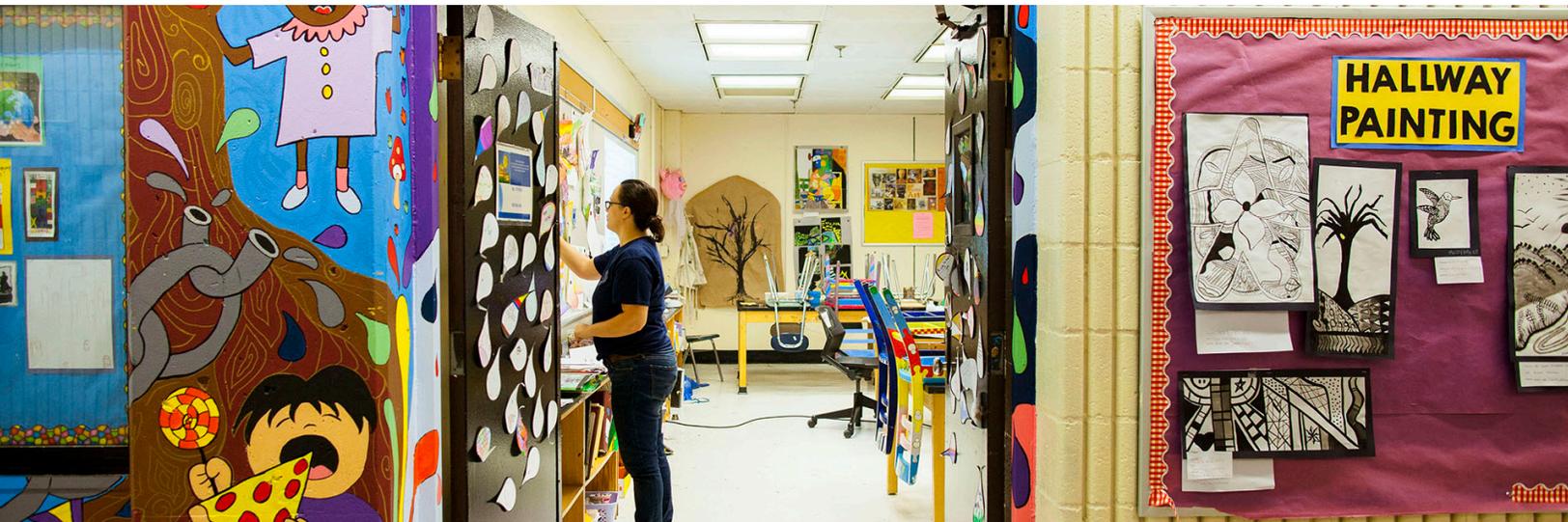
Need creative inspiration? You can find more ideas about materials, styles, and instructions on the next page.

#### 4. Finally, share your work!

We love seeing your art and creativity!

For each award shared with Students Rebuild, the Bezos Family Foundation will make a \$5 donation—up to \$1,000,000—to young changemakers working across the globe, and educators leading change in their local communities across the United States.

On page 7, you'll find further instructions and options for sharing your work, or you can also check out page 15 of the Changemaker Challenge Leader Guide.



# Materials And Art-Making

Below are some ideas for materials and instructions to help get you started!

## Materials

As always, we encourage you to use upcycled and recycled materials for your creations. Below are some examples of materials you might consider. Many may be accessible to students in their homes:

- **Paper:** Plain paper, colored paper, newspaper, magazines, old homework, etc.
- **Reuse:** Paper towel rolls, food boxes, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, jar lids, and more
- **Repurpose:** Old action figures, old awards, Legos, and anything else you can think of!
- **Colors:** Crayons, markers, colored pencils; tempera, watercolor, acrylic, or spray paints
- **Other Materials:** Scissors, paper cutters, exact-o knives, glue sticks, white glue, hot glue, masking tape, and more

**Upcycling** is the practice of finding a new, second use for waste materials or unwanted products. Also known as “creative reuse”, transforming your old paper products and recycling into ART is a great way to upcycle.

## Art Elements

The elements of art help tell a visual story and communicate feeling. Consider applying the below elements of art when creating your awards.

- **Shape and Space:** Is your award 3-D and sculptural, or is it 2-D and flat? For example, trophies are 3-D and kind of like sculptures: they start with a wide base, and get smaller at the top to create balance. Certificates are 2-D and graphic: You might use paint, collage, or even the computer to create a fun and visually interesting award that is flat.



- **Color and Texture:** What colors are you using and why? Are you using golds and silvers to create shine and brightness? Or are you using your changemaker’s favorite colors to celebrate them best? How does color or texture emphasize parts of your award—and how can you use color and texture to create a feeling or draw attention to your design?



Check out these links to learn more about the [elements](#) and [principals](#) of art and design.

## Art Process (Promoting Artistic Behaviors and 21st Century Skills)

Art making can be applied to personal growth and character development.

- **Problem solve and explore:** Drawing or creating awards can require problem solving, iterations, and experimentation. Allow your students time and space to play with and explore the materials to discover what will work best in their art making.
- **Collaborate:** Consider having students work in pairs or small groups to brainstorm what type of awards they will create and how. The teamwork and artistic collaboration can help students generate creative ideas, facilitate informal dialogue about celebrating changemakers, and encourage peer-to-peer learning and motivation.
- **Stretch and take risks:** Making art may can be a vulnerable and sometimes frustrating experience. Create a respectful, safe space for students to risk-take and stretch their abilities by not allowing for negative judgements or defining a “right” or “wrong” way for student artwork to come out. Focus on positive artistic behaviors (like problem solving and persistence) instead of visual outcomes.
- **Persist:** Student art might not match their vision at first, or materials and techniques might not work out as planned. Provide constructive feedback and supportive reassurance to help students persist and work through creative or artistic challenges.



# Submitting Your Work

There are two ways to submit your art to Students Rebuild: Mail us your art pieces or digitally submit photos of art online. Whichever you choose, the first step is to go to [studentsrebuild.org/submit](https://studentsrebuild.org/submit) or click any submit link on our [website](#). Once there, you'll be able to enter the number of art pieces and the number of participants from your team. Your donation amount will immediately calculate and display on your private dashboard, the team map, and your shareable Team Page. More details on submission are included in the Completing the Challenge section on page 15 of the Leader Guide.

And don't forget—a selection of the art we receive in the mail is used at the end of each Challenge to create public exhibits and displays! This is one of the ways we celebrate your great work and continue raising awareness for each cause.

**Looking for creative inspiration? Here's some samples of homemade awards....**



## Homemade Trophy

Trophies are three-dimensional pieces that stand freely. Sometimes, they almost look like sculptures.

### Optional Supplies:

- **Paper:** Plain paper, colored paper, newspaper, magazines, old homework, etc.
- **Reuse:** Paper towel rolls, food boxes, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, jar lids, and more

**Want to keep your award? Great!  
Want to give it to a changemaker?  
Even better!**

This year, we encourage teams and students to keep their art and share the award with their selected changemaker if possible. Sharing a photo is enough to mobilize a donation on the students' behalf allowing the award to be given and spread cheer! We've created a handy Award Certificates which can be printed and filled out by students to help explain the award and the Changemaker Challenge to selected award recipients. Check it out on our [Resources](#) page.

- **Repurpose:** Old action figures, old awards, Legos, and anything else you can think of!
- **Colors:** Crayons, markers, colored pencils; tempera, watercolor, acrylic, or spray paints
- **Other Materials:** Scissors, paper cutters, exact-o knives, glue sticks, white glue, hot glue, masking tape, and more

Notes: Trophies have three parts: A base, a riser, and a topper. Trophies are heavier and wider at the bottom, and lighter and narrower at the top to create balance and stability.

## Steps:

**1. Create the base for your trophy.** Good bases are shorter, wider, and heavier than what you put on top to create a solid foundation.

- Recycled cream cheese and butter boxes or scrap pieces of wood could make good bases. For more stability, you can include items like sand, beans, or rice inside empty containers to add more weight.

**2. Create the risers of your trophy,** which give your trophy height. Good risers should be taller than the base, and stable enough to support your topper.

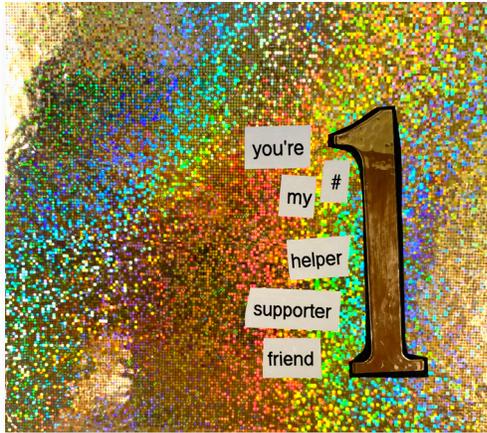
- Things like toilet paper rolls, recycled aluminum cans, and recycled plastic bottles can make good risers.
- If using glue, let the glue dry between each section before continuing to build upwards.

**3. Attach the topper of your trophy**—the decorative ‘icing on the cake’. Good toppers are light enough to sit on your risers without making the trophy top-heavy.

- Things like old toys, action figures, or cut out shapes like stars can make good toppers.

**4. Paint and decorate!**

Looking for more ideas or alternative instructions? Check out this [recycled bottle trophy](#), [paper cup trophy](#), [aluminum can trophies](#), or this fun [Pinterest Board](#) for more ideas.



## Homemade Certificate

A certificate is usually a two-dimensional rectangular piece of paper that is designed to look fun or has visual elements that relate to what the certificate is for.

### Optional Supplies:

- **Paper:** Plain paper, colored paper, newspaper, cardboard, magazines, old homework, etc.
- **Colors:** Crayons, markers, colored pencils; tempera, watercolor, acrylic, or spray paints
- **Other Materials:** Scissors, paper cutters, exact-o knives, glue sticks, white glue, hot glue, masking tape, graphic design programs like Photoshop or Canva, and more

### Steps:

- 1. Pick an art medium you want to work in.** You can draw, create collages, use computer programs like Photoshop or Canva to do graphic design, or you can select other mediums (like photography, clay, textiles, or more!)
- 2. What changemaker is receiving your award, and what is it for?** Brainstorm a list of related visual elements you might want to include in your certificate.
  - For example: if your changemaker is a librarian who did a book drive, maybe your award will have drawing of books on it, or maybe it will look like a library card.
- 3. Sketch out some ideas of what your award will look like** on scrap pieces of paper to practice and plan before you get started.

Think about how you'll use your chosen art materials, along with the **elements** and **principals** of art, to visually communicate ideas and emotions in your pieces.

- 4. Get you materials together and begin creating!**



## Homemade Medal or Ribbon

A medal or ribbon can be a two- or three-dimensional art piece. They can be made of paper, found object, textiles, and more.

Medals and ribbons usually have a circular, central element like a medallion that can stand alone or be attached to decorative string or ribbons. The award details are usually in the center of the medal. They can be made of paper, fabric, or mixed materials. And, they sometimes have decorative tassels attached at the top or bottom.

### Optional Supplies:

- **Paper:** Plain paper, colored paper, newspaper, cardboard, magazines, old homework, etc.
- **Colors:** Crayons, markers, colored pencils; tempera, watercolor, acrylic, or spray paints
- **Reuse:** Jar lids, bottle caps, old textiles like cotton and felt, and more  
\*Jar lids and old buttons made great central features for medals!
- **Other Materials:** Scissors, paper cutters, exact-o knives, glue sticks, white glue, hot glue, masking tape, and more

### Steps:

1. **Decide what art materials you want to work with.** You can draw, create collages of materials, sew, or glue things together to make your medal or ribbon award.
2. **Brainstorm a list of related visual elements** you might want to include in your medal or ribbon—for example, do you want to make something simple or something with a lot of decorative detail?
3. **Sketch out some ideas of what your award will look like** on scrap pieces of paper to practice and plan before you get started.
4. **Think about how you'll use your chosen art materials**, along with the **elements** and **principals** of art, to make something visually fun and appealing.
5. **Get your materials together and begin creating!**

Looking for more ideas or alternative instructions? Check out this [paper rosette ribbon](#), these [gold medals](#), [gum container medals](#), or this fun [Pinterest Board](#) for more ideas.