

Welcoming Refugees Project

Art Guide




We're all connected.

students
r_build

An Art Guide for the Art-ivist in YOU!

Art is a powerful tool for social change. Throughout history, the arts have inspired action, spread ideas, stirred emotions, and built community. This is why art is at the core of Students Rebuild’s lesson plans.

This year, we will channel our creativity to welcome people displaced by war and other crises that cause families to flee their homes by creating postcards that will be sent to young refugees around the world. You can even write a welcome message on the back.

 **However, creativity has no bounds. Teams can feel free to get creative and use any kind of artistic medium from poetry and dance to murals and photography – and more!**



Whatever you do, make it fun and consider making it public—this project is about using your voice, your compassion, and your creativity to share an important social message loud and clear!

In the following sections, we will walk you through a suggested approach to leading your team through creating postcards.



Let's welcome our new neighbors with a postcard!

This year's Welcoming Refugees Project will lead students through an art project to create postcards welcoming young refugees to our communities. The following instructions outline a simple art project. However, art is whatever you make it! Don't be afraid to develop unique creative projects to accompany your classroom's lesson on the importance of welcoming refugees.

During the planning phase, students should think through the questions below—and perhaps do some quick practice sketches of what art your students should include on their postcards.

1

THE ISSUE: What makes you feel welcomed in new spaces—ie. new classrooms, sports teams, cities? What kinds of support do you think refugees need when entering a new community?

2

THE MESSAGE: What message do you want to communicate about what it means to be welcoming? What actions do you hope your art will inspire your community to take?

3

THE ART: What images will help you achieve this, and how will the elements and principles of art also be used to communicate the message? For older students: Use the internet or social media to see examples of how non-profits and other artists are using visuals (art, videos, or photography) to communicate a similar message.

4

THE STYLE: Postcards look different from every part of the world, and that is intentional—you can draw, paint, block or screen print, collage, use photography, use graphic design software, or other methods.

5

THE TEXT: A personalized message can be showcased on the opposite side of your postcard art. What would you like to say to refugees who are new to your community? What would make you feel welcome in a new place?

6

Finally...CREATE! Let students use their plans, sketches, and available materials to execute their creative visions and share their art far and wide!

Use the following prompts to spark conversation about your students familiarity with postcards:

- 1) Have you ever received a postcard? How does it look (if needed, prompt students to refer to and describe the images, colors, organization, lettering and any other elements of postcards)?
- 2) What message is the postcard communicating? Why might it be important in a community? What does a postcard share with its recipient?
- 3) The elements and principles of art include color, line, shape, space, emphasis, pattern, contrast and more. Why do you think the artist chose certain images, colors, visual emphasis and words to share this message? Do you think those elements mattered or were effective, why?
- 4) Ask students to reflect and describe a time piece of art—made them think, feel or act differently. As a follow up, ask why they think that piece of art was effective in doing so.



When ready, close the conversation by letting students know that they will make their own postcards to share an important, positive message with their community.

There's much more to explore.

Learn about this year's Challenge at studentsrebuild.org/refugee.



Developing a Healthy Art Process

Promoting Artistic Behaviors and Character Development

The skills and practices needed in art making can be applied to personal growth and character development. Here's are some tips to help you coach your students in the creative process that will also transfer to pro-social and social-emotional growth:

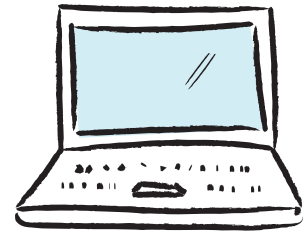
- **Problem solve and explore:** Drawing or creating any kind of art requires problem-solving, iterations, and experimentation. Allow your students' time and space to play with and explore materials, plan, and sketch their ideas to discover what works best in their art making.
- **Collaborate:** Consider having students work in pairs or small groups to brainstorm their art and messaging. Teamwork and artistic collaboration can help students generate creative ideas, facilitate informal dialogue about activism and social justice and encourage peer-to-peer learning and motivation.
- **Stretch and take risks:** Making art may 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 turn 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.



Create your postcard!

How to print

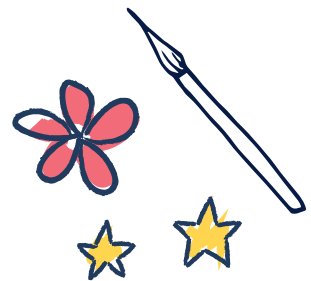
Print the postcard template on the next page on — ideally on cardstock if you have it — and cut along the dotted line to create two double sided postcards per page.



To print double sided copies — open the print dialog on your computer by pressing Ctrl + P (or option + command + P on a Mac computer). Go to the Page Setup tab of the Print window and choose the option for “Two-sided”. If the option is disabled, two-sided printing is not available for your printer.

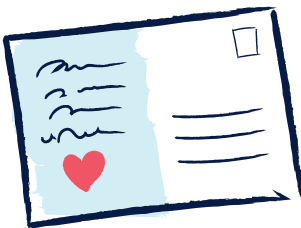
How to decorate

Use markers, pencils, crayons, collage, stickers, paints, or any materials you have available to decorate the non-lined side of your postcards. Use the lined side to have your students write a welcoming note to young refugees who are moving to a new community. Leave the stamp box blank if you are sending your postcards to Students Rebuild!

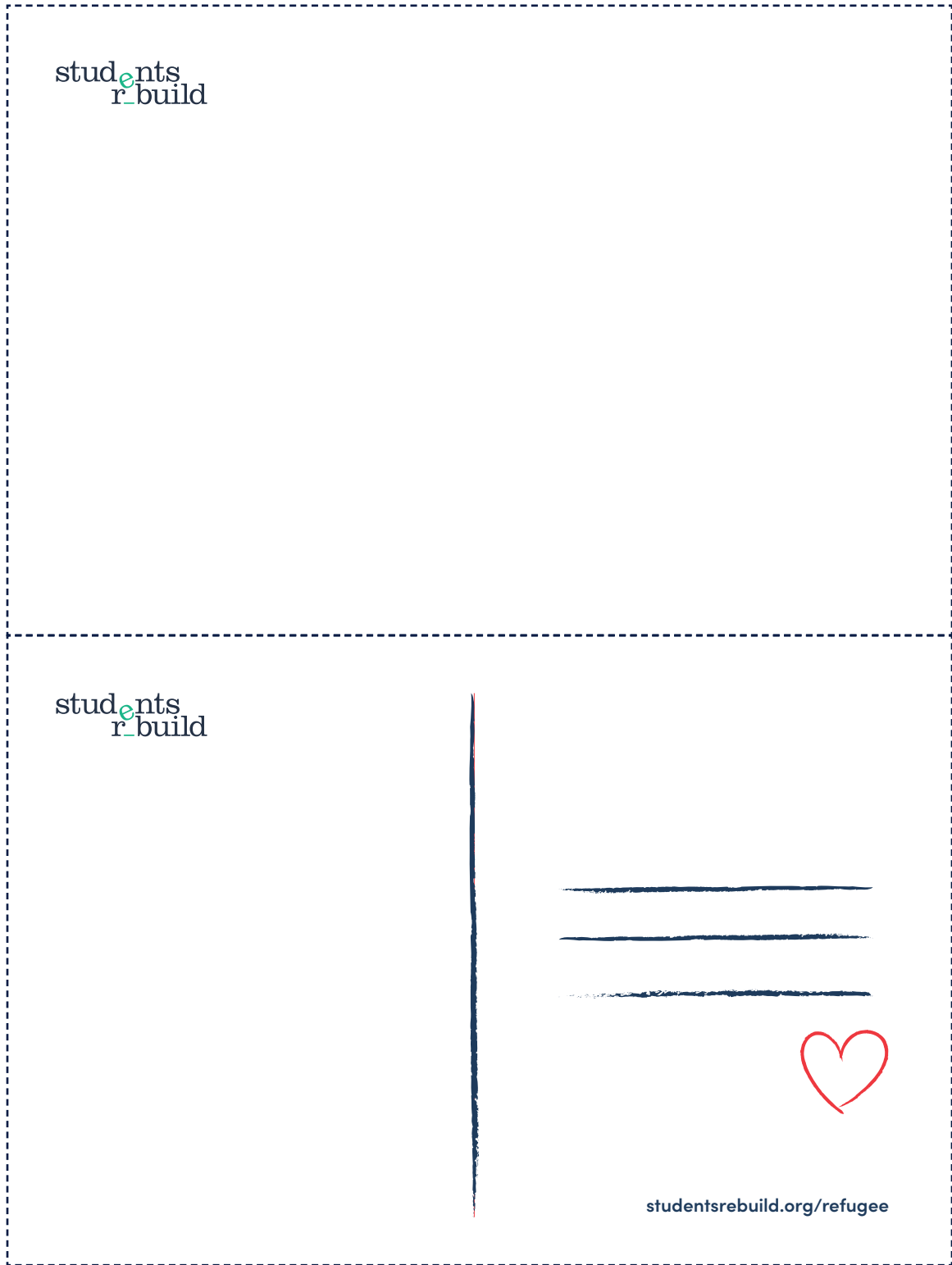


How to submit

There are two ways to submit your art to Students Rebuild: mail us your art pieces or digitally submit them online. Whichever you choose, the first step is to go to studentsrebuild.org/submit and make sure you’re logged in. 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 start calculating and display itself on your private dashboard, the team map, and your shareable Team Page. More details on how to submit — and how to mail your postcards to Students Rebuild — can be found in the Leader Guide and on the [submission page of the website](#).




Side 1.



Side 2. Print on the backside of Side 1 and then cut on the dotted line.

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