Some **Websites to Explore**…

**Middletown Thrall Library**
www.thrall.org

**Ask a Librarian**
www.thrall.org/ask

**Critical Thinking Skills**
www.thrall.org/think

**Databases + Encyclopedias**
www.thrall.org/dbs

**Government Information**
www.thrall.org/gov

**In-Depth Information Guides**
www.thrall.org/guides

**Know Your World**
www.thrall.org/known

**Ready Reference Center**
www.thrall.org/readyref

**Thrall / RCLS Library Catalog**
www.thrall.org/catalog
So, you’d like to change the world…

Well, Good Change Needs Good Information
While notions for change often find their origin in very specific feelings or reactions to certain ideas or situations, most of the "good change" really comes down to information - good information - not merely "sound bytes" or political talking points but facts which can be confirmed, acknowledged, independently studied, questioned, and used as a foundation for any notion of improving ourselves and our community.

Critical Thinking Is Required
Strong critical thinking skills are absolutely necessary if you are to undertake any cause for change. In learning how to evaluate information - particularly claims and sources of information - you can strengthen your cause, proceeding with diligence, validity, and powerful purpose!

The Power of Your Public Library
While public libraries are generally neutral in their mission to serve everyone, offering complete access to the full spectrum of ideas, public libraries are, in fact, advocates of democracy through free access to information: they can and should be used to gain new knowledge, which can then lead to greater understanding, more informed decisions, and heightened mindfulness of how things work and, perhaps more importantly, how things could be improved, personally and socially, through free and self-empowering access to information.

Understanding
Only once we begin to understand our world - where we have been and what has been fought for, in terms of rights and freedoms and why - can we truly begin to contemplate social change, learning some crucial concepts and history so as not to repeat the mistakes of the past while achieving awareness essential to any realistic hopes for a better future, for ourselves and for others.

Where might you begin? Here:
Effecting Change
www.thrall.org/change
We invite you to explore our online informational guide to learn how change works, what you can do, as well as:

- **Civics** - the duties, rights, and freedoms of citizens, their relationship with the government, and how government generally works in a democracy.

- **Terminology** - important words you should familiarize yourself with so you can more actively and intelligently participate in discussions, debates, and propositions of change.

- **History** - rights movements, historic documents which have helped define our nation, our democracy, our society, and present reality

- **Elections** - how elections and voting work, how to support candidates you believe can help bring about the change you prefer, and the prospect of running for political office.

- **Taking Action** - how lobbying works, and how you can begin to lobby for changes, through such things as letters to editors, petitions, contacting government representatives directly to ask questions, promote ideas, and voice your concerns, and how you might begin to exercise your Constitutional freedoms of speech and assembly to highlight and address concerns and advocate change in a peaceful yet prominent public manner.

In addition to informative websites, we provide key links to databases, government information, multimedia, news, related items in our library system catalog, and more.