

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/know

Ready Reference Center

www.thrall.org/readyref

Thrall / RCLS Library Catalog

www.thrall.org/catalog

Change

your

world



*Learn how
change works
& what you can
begin to do!*

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.