



We Are the Change: A Collection

We Are The Change is a collection of quotes from leaders of both our past and present who with their words and actions have inspired us. As you read the quotes below, think about how they relate to the challenges we are facing today. Also, think about how these words inspire you to become a **change agent** who makes your world a better place.

1. *Becoming a Change Agent:*

The first quote we are going to look at is one from former President Barack Obama. President Obama has inspired many people with the following words:

“Change will not come
if we wait for some other
person or some other time.
We are the ones
We’ve been waiting for.
We are the change
That we seek.”

Think about your school district, school, classroom and/or community. Now think about something you would like to see changed in order to make that place or places better for everyone. What is that change? What would you do to help make that change occur?

2. *Together is Better:*

The following quote is from Helen Keller. She was an American author and activist who faced many challenges. She was both deaf and blind, but had a strong team behind her to help her on her path to leadership and change. Helen Keller’s words give us something to think about:

“Alone we can do so little:
Together we can do so much.”

Do you agree with Helen Keller’s quote? Be prepared to share why or why not. What would you do to get a group together to support an idea that you would like to put into action? For example, imagine that you would like to organize a group to take a vacant lot in your

community and turn it into a community garden and playground. How would you get others from your community...both kids and adults... to join you in this effort?

What idea do you have to make your school and/or community better? Maybe you would distribute flyers about your idea. Create a flyer that you think would bring lots of community support for your idea.

3. *What Does Freedom Mean?*

This next quote is from Nina Simone, a singer/songwriter and famous civil rights activist. Nina Simone wrote many songs that reflect the vision of the ***Black Lives Matter*** movement. Her quote:

“I’ll tell you what freedom is to me:
no fear.”

The First Amendment to the Constitution lists freedoms that all of us are entitled to have. Think about the list below. Which of these five freedoms do you think has the greatest impact on your life now?

Freedom of speech - allows each of us to speak our ideas and opinions:

Freedom of religion - allows each of us to establish and practice our religion freely;

Freedom of the press - gives the press the right to publish the news and ideas;

The Right to Assemble - protects the rights of citizens to hold meetings and gatherings;

The Right to Petition the Government – gives every citizen the right to make a complaint to or ask for assistance from local, state or national government without fear of being punished.

Now...write your own quote by finishing Nina Simone’s quote with you own words:

I’ll tell you what freedom is to me... _____
