



# Freedom's Feast PRESIDENTS' DAY

On-line resources to get the most out of your AMERICAN holiday Celebrations.

## ★ A SHOUT OUT FOR SPEAKING OUT ★

*The Lorax, Mr. Wells' 4th Grade Class, and Universal Studios*



Mr. Wells and his 4<sup>th</sup> grade class at the Park School in Brookline, Massachusetts studied the environment and thought about ways they could make a difference. They launched a school wide campaign to cut down on catalogue usage at home and at school.

In the process of becoming activists they learned how to research a cause, how to use different methods to get their messages out

to various audiences, how to communicate their ideas and how to set challenging goals they were excited to meet.

One of the books they read was "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss. You can imagine their excitement when they heard that Universal Studios was planning the premier of "The Lorax" in the spring of 2012!

When they discovered that the website had nothing to say about the important environmental message of the book they were so-o-o-o disappointed. But they decided to do something about it.

They researched and worked together, came up with some great ideas and decided to start a petition through [www.change.org](http://www.change.org) Read how a group of 9 year olds took on a major corporation and convinced it to do the right thing. See their petition and learn how to put together your own petition below.

### How to create a successful petition

[change.org](http://change.org)

#### Step 1: Ask Yourself 3 Key Questions

- Set a goal: *What do I want to change?*
- Choose a decision maker: *Who can make this happen?*
- Tell the story: *Why should others care?*

#### Step 2: Fill In The Details Of Your Petition

- Categorize your petition
- Edit your title
- Upload a photo or video
- Add your decision maker's contact information
- Write a letter to your decision maker

#### Step 3: Stay Connected By Checking Back Often

- Use an email address you check regularly
- Post updates to your petition page
- Stay tuned for additional tips and guides from Change.org

### IN FOCUS: STUDENT ACTIVISM

## CIVIC VOICES

Civic Voices, an International Democracy Memory Bank project of the AFT Educational Foundation and seven overseas teachers unions, encourages student activism around the world.

Civic Voices' *Take a Stand* project focuses on struggles that many young people consider remote or abstract. Their curriculum highlights the work of four young activists who are working for democratic and human rights in their home countries of Burma, China, Iran, and South Korea. Their lead lesson features the story of young activists' involvement in the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham, Alabama. All include guidelines for leading discussions.

The AFT does not appear to support *Take A Stand* on their site but the lessons are well done.

