

## **Using “R” Vocabulary: Rethink and Request**

### **Accompanying Class Activities for ZWAP! Presentation**

#### **Rethink Stuff!**

Objective: To rethink how we can learn and/or play using fewer materials and products.

Time needed: 20-30 minutes

Materials needed: Butcher paper, markers, and a list or “calendar” of school events and holidays\*

#### Activity:

- Break the class into groups of three or four students
- Assign each group a school event or holiday, and explain to the students that their group will be acting as a planning committee. Each group will get a chance to plan a Zero Waste event by rethinking the stuff people often use for that event or holiday.
- Give each group 10 minutes to:
  1. Make a plan to minimize the amount of products and materials needed to put on the school event or holiday celebration
  2. Make a plan to minimize the amount of waste generated by the event
  3. Write their event plans on a butcher paper poster to be shared with the class. Students are welcome to draw what their event will look like!
- Students should be encouraged to consider decorations, cups, dishes, food items (encourage healthy snacks!), and other items relevant to their event or holiday (e.g., Valentine’s Day cards, Halloween candy, holiday fireworks, theater props, and sports training equipment) in their planning
- After the group breakout session, have each group present their poster and plan for their Zero Waste event to the class. As a class, brainstorm additional suggestions to improve upon these plans, and continue brainstorming additional ways students can continue to rethink the materials they consume in their everyday lives

#### \*Ideas for school event calendar

- Holidays: Christmas, Thanksgiving, New Year’s Day, Valentine’s Day, Easter, and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July
- School events: Homecoming football game, spring formal, band or choir concert, theater production, drama club events, fun runs, birthday parties, and bake sales

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#### **Request Change!**

Objective: To reinforce key takeaways from the ZWAP! presentation by writing letters to organizations or individuals in a position of power to encourage them to adopt more Zero Waste practices.

→For reference: ZWAP! key takeaways

1. We have a CHOICE! Waste isn't waste until it's wasted.
2. Our small ACTIONS make a big difference! We can make a difference by reducing waste every day.
3. We have a lot of OPTIONS to reduce waste! Reduce, reuse, recycle + refuse, rethink, request, etc.

Time needed: 20-30 minutes

Materials needed: Paper, writing utensils, envelopes, stamps, list of potential letter addresses (e.g., name-brand clothing companies, school administrators, government representatives, manufacturing companies)

#### Activity:

- Introduce students to the activity, highlighting the key takeaways of ZWAP! and the final outcome of this activity: a formal request of an individual or organization to reduce their waste
- Have students brainstorm individuals or organizations whom they can request to make everyday products reusable/recyclable/repairable/compostable, and to encourage to adopt other Zero Waste practices
- Send student requests to their addresses, and follow-up with any responses your class receives!