

## Some **Websites to Explore...**

**Middletown Thrall Library**

[www.thrall.org](http://www.thrall.org)

**Ask a Librarian**

[www.thrall.org/ask](http://www.thrall.org/ask)

**Critical Thinking Skills**

[www.thrall.org/think](http://www.thrall.org/think)

**Databases + Encyclopedias**

[www.thrall.org/dbs](http://www.thrall.org/dbs)

**Government Information**

[www.thrall.org/gov](http://www.thrall.org/gov)

**In-Depth Information Guides**

[www.thrall.org/guides](http://www.thrall.org/guides)

**Know Your World**

[www.thrall.org/know](http://www.thrall.org/know)

**Ready Reference Center**

[www.thrall.org/readyref](http://www.thrall.org/readyref)

**Thrall / RCLS Library Catalog**

[www.thrall.org/catalog](http://www.thrall.org/catalog)

Middletown Thrall Library Presents

# ***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](http://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.