**student activity 1**

Name______________________________________________________    Date _____________________

John Lewis spent a lifetime on the front lines of effecting growth and change for America. As one of the “Big Six” Civil Rights leaders, his life’s work was about empowering people. Born in the South in 1941, the path to empowerment was heavily impeded with obstacles.

In the “I want” box below, identify something you want for your life, community or society at large. Look to the column on the left for inspiration from John Lewis’s journey as you explore ways to empower yourself and in turn, empower others

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I Want:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>John Lewis’s Path</strong></th>
<th><strong>Disempowerments</strong></th>
<th><strong>My Path</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disempowered...</strong></td>
<td>Examples:</td>
<td>What disempowerments do you experience?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by Jim Crow laws of the South, John Lewis was motivated to break/change the oppressive rules. He was encouraged by his parents who feared for his safety: “Don’t get in trouble.”</td>
<td>Oppression, Bullying, Pandemics, Condition, Stigmas, Status, Barriers, Stressors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Lewis followed MLK on the radio and studied the Montgomery bus boycott. He was inspired and compelled to act in the fight against oppression.</td>
<td>Look</td>
<td>Make a list of resources to learn from. Include books, films, singers, artists, public figures, social media stars – whatever inspires you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958- Seeking guidance and support (empowerment), he wrote a letter to his hero, MLK, and met with him in person. In the same year, John Lewis enrolled in college and connected with local activists and clergy and gained mentors and teachers.</td>
<td>Listen</td>
<td>Who are your supporters now? Who would you like to support you? Who could your mentors be?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joined committees and organizations, participated in Freedom Rides and peaceful demonstrations. They faced violent retaliation, attacks and arrests. The unity of the group helped them to keep moving forward.</td>
<td>Learn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership: At the age of 22, Lewis became Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, he registered Black voters in Selma and helped plan the March on Washington.</td>
<td>Connect with those who share your vision. Empower and encourage each other.</td>
<td>What organization could you join to support your “want”? Do you need to start one?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After years of work in activism, John Lewis won a seat in the House of Representatives in 1986. He carried out 16 consecutive terms advocating and fighting for the empowerment of all through legislation.</td>
<td>Empower People Mission + Career</td>
<td>What leadership positions would you like to have?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Empower People Mission + Career</strong></td>
<td><strong>How can you empower others?</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What careers or hobbies could align with your “want”?</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*John Lewis: Good Trouble*
1. Use this form to outline a letter to congress.
2. Write the first draft. Seek empowering feedback for your draft.
3. Write a final draft.
4. Send via email or adjust the format for email.

**Issue, topic, or bill:**

**Your Name, Grade:**

**School Name, Teacher:**

**School Street Address:**

**City, State Zip Code:**

**Student Email Address:**

**Legislator Name:**

The Honorable

**Congressional Office:**

**Street Address:**

**City, State, Zip Code:**

**Introductory line:**

Dear Representative/Senator,

**Introductory Paragraph:** who you are and why the issue matters

**First name, grade, relation to legislator:**

**Reason for writing:**

**Why is the issue important to you?**

**Personal/community/family connection to issue:**

**Why do you need the legislator’s help?**

**Facts Paragraph:** site research, examples, statistics

**General idea about importance of issue/bill:**

**Specific example:**

**Researched evidence:**

**Statistics:**

**What’s at stake?**
1. Use this form to outline a letter to congress.
2. Write the first draft Seek empowering feedback for your draft.
3. Write a final draft.
4. Send via email or adjust the format for email.

Call to Action Paragraph: what you want the legislator to do
I urge/ask you to...

Benefits of being attentive to the issue:

Best possible outcome if legislator supports:

Closing:
Sincerely,

Signature:

Your name: