



Our section on the past concludes just as our students are beginning to enter fourth and eighth grade classrooms. With our students focused on the future and the civic engagement ideas of those elementary and middle school students, our readings also shift to the future. For these last few weeks of the semester, we introduce readings about ongoing problems. Unlike our readings from the past, these citizen-led engagement initiatives are in process. They read about high school students working to get a statewide ban on single-use plastics, elementary school students raising money to build wells to help with water shortages in Africa, and college students constructing straw bale homes in the city of Wilmington to provide low-income, environmentally sound housing. We then challenge students to connect the three time frames, to identify how the underlying themes and specific examples from their readings reveal what it means to be an engaged citizen-- in the present, in the past, and in the future.