



TEACHING FOR CHANGE

building social justice starting in the classroom

www.teachingforchange.org | PO Box 73038, Washington, DC 20056 | 800-763-9131
Teaching for Change is proud to operate the bookstore at [Busboys and Poets](#), 14th and V.

Dear ,

For almost 2 decades, [Teaching for Change](#) has been transforming schools based on a simple belief - that education is the best hope for a democratic and just society.

Now, in this historical election year of hope and change, we find ourselves at a critical crossroads. We have an unprecedented opportunity to create significant improvement in our schools.

We have a choice to sustain the momentum of citizen engagement by teaching students of all ages that the critically needed change we worked so hard for during this election still rests in our hands.

Or, we can go back to business as usual with textbook versions of democracy: citizens watch and consume while elected leaders make decisions. Missing from these pages are stories of organized movements by every day people who found their voice and have been responsible for so much of our country's progress.

With your support, we can reach teachers in all 50 states and the territories. We did it in 2008. Teaching for Change (along with Rethinking Schools) distributed free packets centered on Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States* to teachers across the country. (Photo: Howard Zinn speaks to educators in Houston, by Steve Puppe.)

The response was overwhelming: At every grade level, teachers reported that students



were motivated to read, write and to pay more attention to the world around them thanks to the lessons and readings. Here's what some of them told us:

- *We badly need to get a message of advocacy and action into our communities and into our hearts. Your support makes this easier, in a fight that feels overwhelming, especially here in the central valley of California.*
- *Please keep up the good work; your materials are increasingly important as decreasing support is available in schools for this type of content.*
- *In the pre-quiz to the lesson on 1491, my 8th grade students thought that Europe was advanced and Africa was backward. Now their perceptions have changed a whole lot. What I like the best is that the lesson has them figure it out for themselves. They are learning research and critical thinking skills.*

Help us to sustain this work in 2009. Education for an engaged democracy is not in the textbooks, not in school budgets, and not in teacher education programs. While the need is great, funding for our work is at an all-time low.

For every \$50 you donate, we can make sure that 100 teachers, students, and parents receive the lessons and support they need to be active participants in their classrooms, communities and the world at large way past the inauguration.

As Howard Zinn says, "Democracy requires direct action by concerned citizens." **Donate today: Our future depends on it.**

Sincerely,

Alicia Horton, Board Chair

Deborah Menkart, Executive Director

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