YALE NATIONAL INITIATIVE
to strengthen teaching in public schools®

Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2026 Volume I: The Kids are not the Threat

The New Resistance: Protest through Performance

Guide for Curriculum Unit 26.01.03, published September 2026
by Shondra L. Cooper

The New Resistance: Protest through Performance is an integrated 5-6-week Literacy and Social Studies unit that was created for 7th and 8th grade scholars. The goal is for scholars to evolve from casual consumers of media to proactive civic change-makers. The unit is designed for teachers to use regional music and writings based on their geographical location along with other supplemental materials they feel is relevant. Scholars will research how youth have been framed as threats in the media throughout history, despite evidence that shows they have been at the forefront of many protests that have changed the country. They will also analyze how these biased narratives negatively framed our youth in addition to public policy. Lastly, scholars will express their "protest" through creative mediums, including song, photography, drama, and visual art in a public showcase.

(Developed for Reading and Social Studies, grade 8; recommended for Reading and Social Studies, grades 7-8)

https://teachers.yale.edu
©2026 by the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute, Yale University, All Rights Reserved. Yale National Initiative®, Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute®, On Common Ground®, and League of Teachers Institutes® are registered trademarks of Yale University.
For terms of use visit https://teachers.yale.edu/terms_of_use