

• The written explanation (300 words)

It only takes one voice to make a difference. In history, courageous people have used their voices to enact meaningful societal change at times of great injustice. The power of the human voice should never be under-estimated. *Speak Up Even If Your Voice Shakes* aims to inspire young people to look to their heroes for inspiration and see how they have created change in their lives and the wider community.

Young people experiencing bullying need to feel safe and able to talk to a trusted adult. This piece likens powerful voices on a global stage to the small voice of an individual in a family home – both take great courage. This seeks to place greater importance on the act of speaking up against bullying, a small action still takes great courage, and it is not an impossible task. By combining these two worlds, the audience can see how change will come when a voice is made heard.

Through intimate camera shots, the audience is drawn in and encouraged to identify with the main character as she embarks on her walk down the hallway. The drawn-out pacing of this sequence symbolises the journey the character, or any victim, has taken to the point when they are ready and able to talk to someone about their experience.

At the climax of the ad, the protagonist's voiceover breaks the 4th wall telling the audience directly, "voices can change the world, and they can change yours". This suddenly pulls the viewer out of the narrative and forces them to look at their own life, realising that their own voice can help their situation.

• A short summary of what happens in the film (150 words)

Speak Up Even If Your Voice Shakes is an empowerment piece that uses the greatest and most powerful voices in history from around the world to encourage a victim of bullying to talk to a trusted adult.

As a young girl edges her way along the dark hallway, she is gradually inspired by a compounding crescendo of recognisable voices that define landmark moments in time. Upon reaching the end of her journey, the voices have swelled into a cacophony of momentous speeches known for spurring multitudes of change. They suddenly resolve, leaving one last voice to heard - the voice of the girl. She is ready to speak up.

• Cultural/context information (150 words)

In Australia today, 1 in 4 students experience bullying every few weeks or more, while only around 50% of these students seek help. Talking to a trusted adult is an important step to take to stop the cycle of bullying. A voice can change the world.

• Please explain any cultural terms, references or viewing context which you feel need explanation

The following public figures were referenced in the video:

- Martin Luther King Jr, Activist and leader for American Civil Rights Movement
- Greta Thunberg, Environmental Activist
- Adam Goodes, Indigenous campaigner, AFL star and Australian of the Year 2014
- Malala Yousafzai, Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner
- Barack Obama, American President