

WORK OF 1000 Civic Engagement Program

STUDY GUIDE

ENGAGE

Focused Free Write: Ask students to write for three to five minutes in response to the following question. What are the images, sounds, and words that you remember from the film? Invite students to read aloud what they have written.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you feel about Marion Stoddart's story?
 2. Do you know any other stories of one person taking the lead in making positive change in a community?
 3. Have you ever heard someone say, "They should do something about that!" Who are THEY? Are WE a part of THEY?
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EMPOWER

Vision Sketch: Provide students with the following prompt. *In the film, former Mayor of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, Bill Flynn, said of Marion Stoddart, "She saw things the rest of us do not." What do you see that others may not? Sketch in pictures or words your vision of a sustainable future.* (You may want to discuss what "sustainable" means.) Invite students to share their sketches with a partner or in a small group.

Local Leaders: Who is doing the "work of 1000" in our community? Ask students to research and report on people in their own community, maybe even students in their school, who have led local initiatives to protect the environment and/or improve other people's lives.

What We Can Do: Lisa Wong, Mayor of Fitchburg, Massachusetts recently said about the Nashua River today, "The river is an asset." What opportunities are there for us to develop assets in our own community? Ask students as a class or in smaller groups to

1. Generate lists of ideas to address local environmental and/or social issues,
 2. Select one of the issues from the lists, and
 3. Discuss and decide on what action they can take to help address their selected local issue as a service project. The issue might be in the school community or in the larger community of the town or city.
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ACT

How We Can Do It:

1. Ask students to develop a plan for their service project, which should include: goals; how goals will be achieved; who will be involved, including officials and other stakeholders; and a timeline for the project, and
2. Guide and supervise students in the implementation of their service project. The *Commit* handbook may be a useful resource for guiding students in this work.

"What I wanted to do was to make a difference in the world—which is what we all want to do—and can do."

—MARION STODDART



Share with Others:

Please stay in touch: e-mail info@workof1000.org or post to [facebook.com/workof1000](https://www.facebook.com/workof1000) to tell us about your project—what you hope to achieve, how it's going, and any other thoughts you have. We would like to hear from you!

Additional Questions for Inspiration and Discussion

At the heart of the film is Marion's belief that each of us—no matter who we are or where we come from—can make a difference in the world.

1. What do you think of Marion's point of view?
2. How did Marion ensure that her work on the river would be continued into the future?
3. How can you apply this perspective to your work?

“One person can do the work of 1,000 but strength lies in numbers, the more informed people are, the greater the power for change.”

—MARION STODDART

