

Kimberly Bates

Pedagogy Option 7: Attend an Ocean Science Webinar

### How Can You Speak for the Ocean?

On June 8<sup>th</sup> in recognition of World Ocean's Day I attended the "How Can You Speak for the Ocean?" webinar hosted by OPAK. The webinar was led by Jeffrey Morgan and consisted of a panel of people who are all passionate about spreading awareness about the ocean and the importance of protecting it. Each panelist answered the question, "How can you speak for the ocean?". Their answers ranged from educating youth about it, creating art, connecting people with the ocean in meaningful and enjoyable ways, and protecting it by picking up trash. They also shared two student created videos about protecting the ocean that were really sweet. My favorite speaker shared that he and his organization teach children songs about nature and the ocean and he even sang a little bit of one for us during the webinar. Then, they had a question and answer session. The OPAK founder, Melanie Colby, also spoke and she shared how she and a friend actually began OPAK, Ocean Protection Advocacy Kids, when they themselves were kids. They started a group at their school to help remove plastic from the ocean and years later they turned their dream into a reality by opening OPAK. Melanie encouraged people to take their passion - no matter what it is, art, music, education, etcetera - and use it to stand up for something to create change. It was an inspiring webinar.