

Organizing Activism

INNER WORK

Community engagement means to have community involvement from beginning to the end, which fuels the passion that drives any movement. Seeing yourself in the movement is how we can begin to lift our cause higher. The beauty in community engagement is finding individuals who share the same experiences as us and finding space to see ourselves in one another, rising together in unity. It all starts with beginning an inner conversation with yourself, and expanding to dialogue with your community.

SELF CHECK-IN

I believe in making changes that I'm passionate about. Right now, I'm passionate about

_____ .
(a cause you're passionate about)

When I think about the injustice of _____, I feel _____ .
(an injustice you want to change) (emotion)

When I think about the word activism and how I can make a difference, I feel _____ .
(emotion)

No matter what these feelings are, I can use them to guide me towards making a positive impact.
But I know that I can't do this alone.

There are already people who have been making the changes I want to see in the world.

I can follow the footsteps of _____ ,
(an influential figure or community you resonate with)

who inspires me with their _____ , _____ and _____ .
(your favorite qualities about this influential figure or community)

One thing they've done to progress our world forward is _____ .
(an action they've taken or initiative they've started)

I know I can't do everything, but I know I can do something.

I will use my _____ and _____ voice to promote my vision of a better world,
(adjectives to describe your unique voice)

a world where _____ .
(a short description of your vision)

I am ready to give my **time / talents / money / platforms** to do what I believe is right.
(circle all that apply)

I believe in my own unique power to affect change, no matter how big or small.

QUOTES BY MY FAVORITE ACTIVISTS AND CHANGEMAKERS

We as a community can never reach our full potential if we don't reach back to the past to make the present stronger. The most effective form of activism is when we make it personal. Personal by standing up for the issues that have impacted us, personal by bringing the people we love with us.

Remember that activists and changemakers do not have to be famous or well-known.

They can be people you can engage with everyday.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What inspires me to take action?

Who or what gets in the way of my ability to speak up?

A world that I would be proud to live in looks like...

OUTER WORK

HOW I CAN ADVOCATE

Each moment in our life is purposeful and we've each been given the tools around us to achieve our full calling in that moment. Whether it's your personal privilege, your social media platforms, your ability to stand up for a co-worker being discriminated against, your voice, or your vote, use it all in the name of justice and to speak truth to power. We can be advocates for the people in our everyday lives and the issues that impact our most vulnerable communities.

<p>My Money</p> <p>What businesses, nonprofits, and fundraisers can you support?</p>			
<p>My Talents</p> <p>What are your skills? What do you enjoy doing?</p>			
<p>My Platforms</p> <p>In what spaces, virtual or physical, do you have a voice?</p>			
<p>My Time</p> <p>When in your schedule can you devote time to your cause?</p>			

MORE WAYS I CAN TAKE ACTION

In order to change a system, one must disrupt it. When the formal avenues such as lobbying our elected officials or gathering petitions aren't moving the movement forward, you must become more radical in your approach. Impacting the status quo through boycotts and protest is another effective way to push for change and make one's demands heard. It's also important to realize that art and creativity can be used as an anchor to spark passion in others and move folks into action. Lastly, never underestimate the power of asking! It's vital that you use your voice to invite and encourage your family and friends to get involved, to volunteer, to donate, and to vote!

<p>FORMAL TACTICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Vote <input type="checkbox"/> Sign a petition <input type="checkbox"/> Contact my local official <input type="checkbox"/> Donate to a fundraiser <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Forums <input type="checkbox"/> Run for office <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer <input type="checkbox"/> Support a local business or nonprofit <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 	<p>INFORMAL TACTICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Difficult conversations <input type="checkbox"/> Divesting funds <input type="checkbox"/> Boycott <input type="checkbox"/> Protest <input type="checkbox"/> Die-in <input type="checkbox"/> Walk-outs <input type="checkbox"/> Strategic non-cooperation <input type="checkbox"/> Shut downs <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
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CURRENT ELECTED OFFICIALS IN MY COMMUNITY

Elected officials are elected by the people and their duty should always be to the people! Knowing who's in office to represent you is critical because they can and will make decisions that will impact the lives of you and your community. When you know who they are, you can hold them accountable to do the right things for the community they have vowed to serve.

STATE:	CITY:	DISTRICT #:	
Position	Name	Email	Phone Number
Governor			
State Assembly			
State Representative			

NOTES

Activism and exercising your power can feel extremely overwhelming, especially during election season. Constantly being bombarded with messages on what allyship and activism is or is not, social media feeds congested with political memes, and who to vote for can feel like a lot of pressure. It's important to step back and go back to your whys and whats.

Why is exercising your power important?

Why did our ancestors fight so hard for the rights we have today?

What does voting, protesting, or volunteering mean for me?

What does voting, protesting, or volunteering do for the people I care about?

In these moments of stillness and reflection, you find your reason. Your reason drives your purpose, which ultimately will drive your passion. We can't allow the pressure of society to take us away from our own conversations with ourselves. We have to remember our whys and build in preparation for purpose to be fulfilled. Voting is only one critical avenue to creating real change in the communities you identify with, and real change in the lives of the people we love. Whether you're using this PDF for a primary election or to prepare for a protest, we encourage you to act from your why and your passion will follow.

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VOTER INFORMATION

- 1.) Check your voter registration information at <https://www.nass.org/can-i-vote/voter-registration-status>
- 2.) Make updates to your registration at <https://vote.gov>
- 3.) Sign-up for ballot tracking at <https://wheresmyballot.com>

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