

Activism-Choose a Cause - 9/3/20

Mr. Carter - 7th Grade English/Language Arts

* Required

1. First and Last Name: *

2. Date: *

Example: January 7, 2019

3. Period Number: *

Mark only one oval.

7-2

7-4

7-5

7-6

Five Minute Do Now:

One word answers and sentence fragments will not be accepted. Please write your answers in three complete sentences.

4. Do Now: Write about the best or the worst day of your life. *

5 points

Learning Target:

After completing this lesson I will have a better understanding of activism and will have selected a cause and made steps toward affecting change.

Activism-Choose a Cause Lesson:

Please read through the following descriptions and instructions. Then, complete the readings and answer the activity questions.

Introduction:

Social media is revolutionizing how youth-led activism gains momentum. Young adults, once in the shadow of their parents, possess a powerful voice, constantly active through mobile technology. The power of that voice was evident around the world, when four million young people—many under the age of twenty-five—protested across 150 countries in September to demand urgent action on climate change in one of the largest youth-led strikes to date.

Since the COVID 19 pandemic began, it has been difficult for activists to stage live protests, but along with utilizing social media there are several other ways to get the word out about a particular cause.

Instructions:

1. Read this article about activism and protest.

<https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/10-ways-youth-can-engage-in-activism>

2. Read this second article offers ten times that youth activists made a difference.

<https://www.benjerry.com/whats-new/2018/05/youth-activists>

3. Fill out the form/worksheet while reflecting on the articles presented.

4. After answering all of the questions and proofreading your answers, submit the form (if participating online) or hold onto your work for a drop off at the school at a later date.

Assignment Overview:

People involved in activism have a passion for making positive change. Look for inspiration in the news, in your community or in your school and find a cause that you are passionate about. Fill out the questions, which will guide you in the direction of making positive change.

Reference Articles:

<https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/10-ways-youth-can-engage-in-activism>

<https://www.benjerry.com/whats-new/2018/05/youth-activists>

Activity Questions:

One word answers and sentence fragments will not be accepted. Please write your answers in complete sentences and do not be afraid to let your voice be heard.

5. 1) Identify the issue that you want to focus on. * 2 points

.....

6. 2) State a concrete goal or set of goals you want to achieve. * 2 points

.....
.....
.....
.....

7. 3) Tell a story that relates to the issue. * 2 points

.....
.....
.....
.....

8. 4) Consider what platform you want to use to get the word out. (examples: live protest, social media, flyers) * 2 points

.....
.....
.....
.....

- 9. 5) What is the first step that you would take toward bringing this cause to the public? * 2 points

Five Minute Exit Ticket:

Reflect on today's lesson and answer the question(s) using complete sentences.

- 10. Exit Ticket: In your professional opinion, is activism useful tool for making change? What are some things that you learned today that support your view? * 5 points

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.



10 Ways Youth Can Engage in Activism



Carlos Amador / CC BY-NC 2.0

Our country has a long history of youth-led movements that brought about significant social change. Young people have advocated for child labor laws, voting rights, civil rights, school desegregation, immigration reform and LGBTQ rights. Through their actions, the world has changed. Because young people often have the desire, energy and idealism to do something about the injustice they see in the world, they are powerful agents for change.

Our work in education helps students examine implicit and overt forms of bias and discrimination and as a result, educators often feel a responsibility to provide students with the structure, opportunity and tools to do something about the injustice they see in the world. Transforming students' feelings of anger, sadness

and hopelessness into concrete actions that can make the world more equitable is a vital teaching opportunity. Voting is one way to get your voice heard but there are a myriad of ways young people can make difference.

Below are ideas for bringing social activism into the classroom and outside of the school walls. These are lifelong skills and attitudes that teach students about citizenship and that there is something you can do when faced with injustice. The strategies can be acted upon individually, organized together as a group and young people can join with a larger effort that is taking place locally or nationally. The tactics also bring opportunities for students to read, write, research, think critically and talk with each other.

1. Educate others

As students learn about an issue they care about, their natural instinct is to share their new knowledge and insight with others. Encourage this by providing live and online opportunities for them to teach others, including their classmates, younger students and adults in their lives. This can include school assemblies, community forums, teach-ins, peer-to-peer programs and social media forums. Include opportunities to share the information in interesting ways (written, art, theatre, etc.) and they should also give other students the chance to explore their own thoughts and feelings about the topics. Youth who want to know more may be more likely to learn from another young person.

2. Advocate for legislation

Change comes about in a variety of ways and one of these is through legislative change. For example, the primary advocates for the DREAM Act have been young people known as the DREAMers, who have a personal investment in the issue. With your students, provide opportunities for them to learn about the history and impact of legislative change like the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Help them analyze proposed legislation in relation to their goals and assess the extent to which it will have an impact. They can study research that examines the extent to which

legislation impacted injustice. Have students push for legislation by working with other groups with similar goals, building coalitions and writing letters to their legislators to advocate for specific local, state and federal laws.

3. Run for office

Student government provides a chance for students to have a positive impact in their school and learn about how government works on a small scale. It gives youth the experience to reflect on and consolidate their own positions on important school issues, learn how to communicate those positions, build relationships with others and become a good listener in understanding constituent (i.e. other students) needs. It is also good practice for the future in getting involved in politics. Elected positions are not the only way to get involved; students can also become involved in groups like the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), peer training or other task forces that are working to improve their school.

4. Protest

Marching in the streets enables students to express themselves and publicly convey what's happening while meeting and connecting with other people who feel passionate about the same issues. Demonstrations and protests can be uplifting and empowering and can help students feel like they are part of a larger movement. In preparing to attend a protest, have students consider what their goals are in attending the event and think through what message they want to convey. They can create posters, prepare songs or chants and practice symbolism that conveys their thoughts and feelings. They should consider whether they want to do individually or organize a group of students from their school to go together, make transportation arrangements and ensure that safety concerns are addressed.

5. Create a public awareness campaign that includes social media

There are many ways to develop or participate in a public awareness campaign. Educating people about an issue in order to inspire change can take place in school, in the community and online. Creating signs and posters using art and photography can be very effective as can videos and live speeches; these are all useful skills that young people can learn. In recent years, the use of social media to raise public awareness has been largely driven by young people and is a useful vehicle for raising issues and effecting change. The use of blogs, social media sites like Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat, videos, memes and online petitions are just a few examples of how words travel fast online and can incite quick and effective action.

6. Do a survey about the issue and share the results

Understanding what people think and why is helpful in bringing about social change. Students can learn more about public opinions on issues by participating in surveys themselves and also reading about them. They can also create their own surveys. Using paper surveys or online surveys, students can gain insight into how other students in their school or the larger community feel about an issue. This is useful in organizing others and addressing their concerns and needs; at the same time it builds math, critical thinking and interpersonal skills.

7. Raise money

Raising money is a concrete way for students to contribute to community or national efforts to address injustice. From organizing a bake sale around a local issue to fundraising on a larger scale for a national concern like racial disparities in the criminal justice system, raising money helps students feel like they are part of something bigger and backs the cause. Fundraisers can include selling items, auctions, entertainment, sponsoring events and more.

8. Write a letter to a company

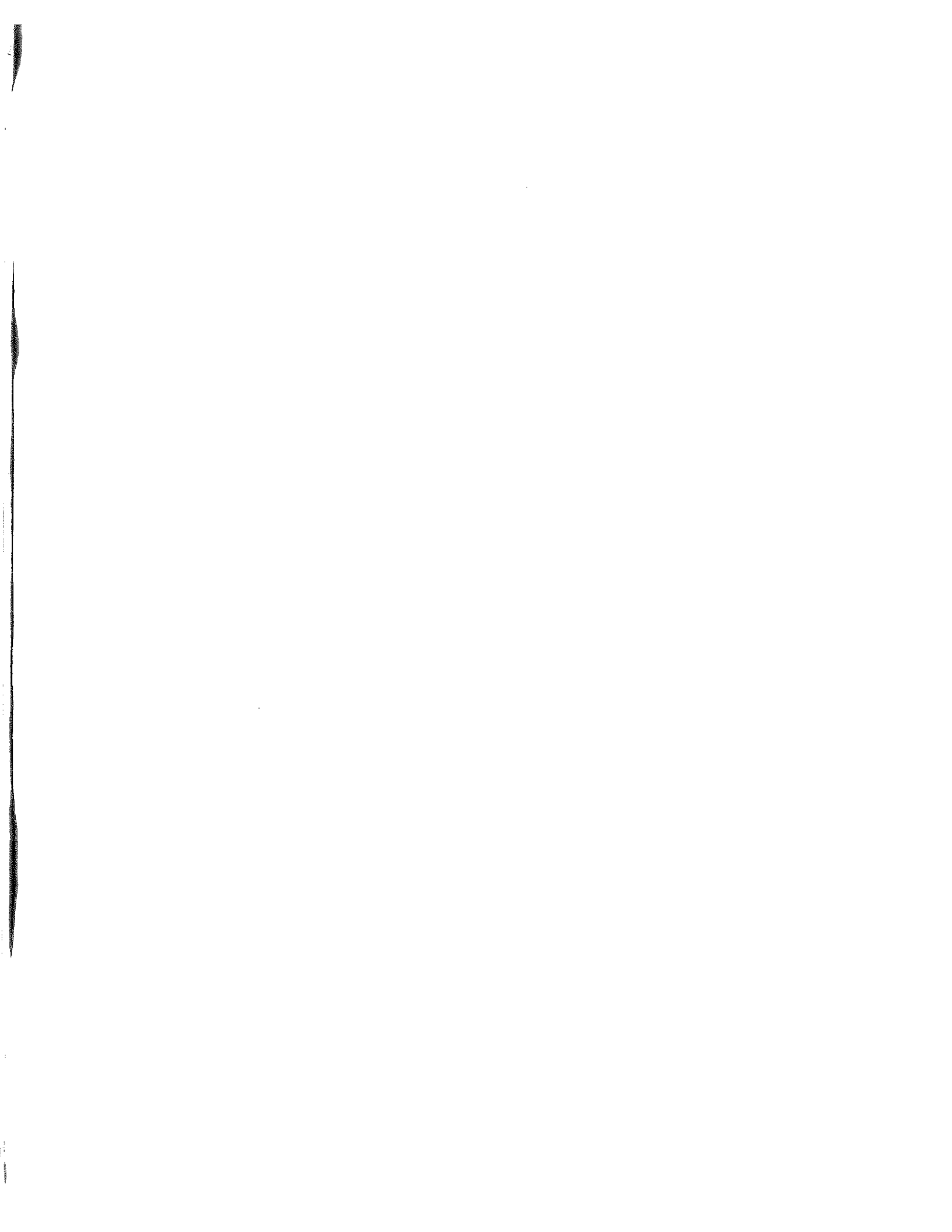
Students can reach out to companies or organizations that they feel have done something unfair or biased. This is something do-able that can make a difference. For example, if students want to change the ways toy companies use gender role stereotypes to package and sell their toys or games, have them write letters to toy or video game companies and explain why they think their practices are biased. In crafting a well-written letter with evidence and a clear statement of what needs to change, students learn useful skills in persuasion and at the same time, it has made a difference.

9. Engage in community service

In addition to organizing and advocating on a large scale, students should be encouraged to engage in community service on issues they care about. For example, if they are concerned about the stereotypes and violence directed at homeless people, in addition to advocating for legislation or attending a demonstration, students can also donate their time to help out in a homeless shelter or soup kitchen. Serving the people who are directly impacted gives young people firsthand knowledge of the situation, deepens their understanding and builds empathy.

10. Get the press involved

Help students understand that bringing publicity to their issue amplifies the message, gets more people concerned and potentially has a greater impact. They can write a press release, do an interview, write an op-ed in their local paper or invite a reporter to see what they are doing and write something about it. This sharpens their own message and serves to bring that message to a larger group of people.





FLAVORS

SHOPS & CATERING

VALUES



10 Times Youth Activists Made A Difference

May 18, 2018

It seems like young people today are always ready to step up and fight for what they believe in, be it LGBTQ equality, racial or gender equity, or the right to safe schools. And we are loving it! Their passion and resourcefulness is fueling a powerful movement for a more just tomorrow.

And it's not just today's youth — there is a long history of youth-led activism creating real, tangible change for the better all over the globe. Ready for a history lesson? Dive in:

1

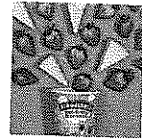
Most Popular



From Slavery to Mass Incarceration

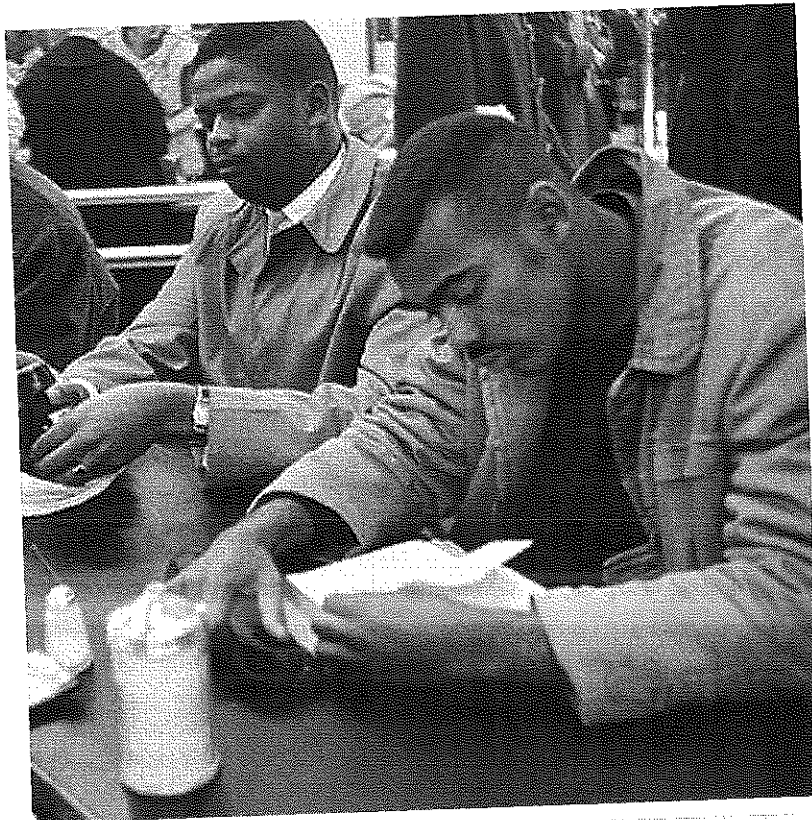


QUIZ: The Hardest Quiz Questions We've Ever Asked

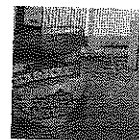


Top Ben & Jerry's Flavors of 2018

Greensboro Lunch Counter Sit-Ins, 1960



In an era when it was not uncommon for businesses to openly discriminate against Black patrons, the Greensboro lunch counter sit-ins were bold and revolutionary. In February 1960, four Black students from North Carolina A&T State University sat at a “whites only” Woolworth’s lunch counter and refused to leave. In the following days and weeks, hundreds more students joined the protest, and the movement spread to cities all over the South. Many people were arrested, and ultimately the protests spurred Woolworth’s and other businesses to



The Flavor Graveyard’s Most Missed Flavors

Recent Tweets

Tweets by @benandjerrys



Ben & Jerry's
@benandjerrys

🗳️ Quiz alert! Tell us abc your flavor bae and we'll give you which underrated flavor you should try next. Take quiz: benjerrys.co/3ghKS



Aug 22,



Ben & Jerry's
@benandjerrys

There's no sweeter way to off your week than by putting your boots on the mooood

revoke their segregationist policies.

2

University Uprisings, 1968

1968 saw student uprisings on college campuses in the US and beyond. At Howard University in Washington, DC, a historically black university, over 1,000 students took over an administrative building, demanding that the university's white president resign over racially insensitive remarks he'd made, that African-American history be better represented in the curriculum, and that a judiciary system involving students be created. Students at New York City's Columbia University staged a similar movement soon after, protesting a new gym being built in Harlem which would give only limited access to Harlem residents, and Columbia's contract with a weapons think tank. Overseas in France and Poland, students rose up to protest government censorship and capitalist consumerism, respectively.

3

Vietnam War Protests,

1960's/1970's



Over two million young men were drafted into service during the Vietnam War. It's no wonder, then, that protests against the war — and the draft — were fueled by the country's youth. Protests began in the early 1960's and peaked in 1968 when the war was costing taxpayers \$25 billion annually and had already taken over 15,000 lives. And still, the draft was calling 40,000 young men into service every month. Young protesters gathered by the thousands in Washington, DC, marched to the Pentagon, and made their voices heard from coast to coast. Today, the Vietnam War protests are still some of

the most memorable and well-known in our nation's history.

4

Soweto Uprising, 1976

By 1976, South Africans had been living under apartheid for decades, but few outside the country were paying much attention to its atrocities. Two years earlier, the government had mandated that all education would be conducted in Afrikaans — a language unfamiliar to most Black South Africans and with strong associations to apartheid and the oppressive white government — and English, as opposed to students' native indigenous languages. On June 16, 1976, between 10,000 and 20,000 students left their schools and rallied in protest. The protesters were met by violence by police, and hundreds of deaths resulted. But ultimately, the protest got the world's attention and led to the international opposition that would eventually topple the racist government.

5

Velvet Revolution, 1989



1989 saw one of the fastest, most peaceful, and most successful protests in modern history. Just eight days after the fall of the Berlin Wall signaled the end of the Communist government in East Germany, Czechoslovakia followed suit. Protesters, driven largely by students and young people and eventually numbering half a million, gathered in Prague to push the ruling Communist Party out of power. After just 11 days, they were successful. The Communist Party relinquished power, paving the way for free democratic elections in 1990.

6

Tiananmen Square, 1989



After weeks of student-led, pro-democracy protests in Beijing in 1989, the Chinese government retaliated against protesters by firing on the crowds in Tiananmen Square. Hundreds were killed, and today democracy activists, sadly, know just how far the Chinese government will go to quell dissent. But one iconic reminder of the bravery of that day endures: the photograph of Tank Man, a single man standing defiantly in front of four military

tanks, embodying determination and resistance for all the world to see.

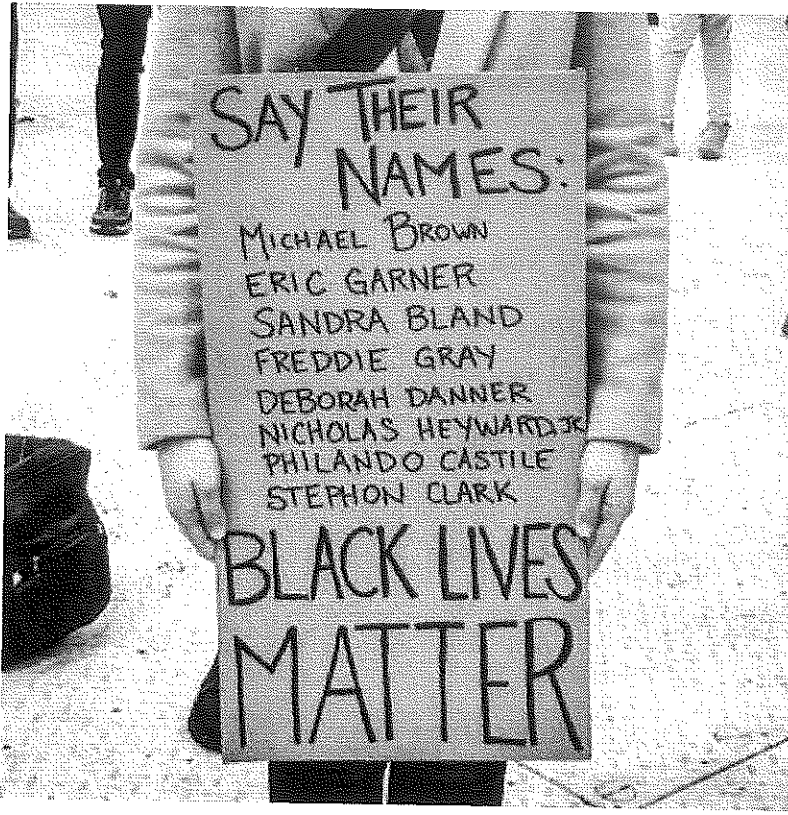
7

Arab Spring, 2010

In 2010, youth and social media took center stage as the Arab world was turned on its head. Through Facebook and Twitter, young people organized a revolution of unprecedented size and scope. Beginning in Tunisia, then spreading to Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Syria, Bahrain, and other Middle Eastern countries, the pro-democracy protests rallied against oppressive governments, police corruption, economic struggle, and widespread human rights violations. Though people of all ages took part in the year-long movement, analysts agree that it was driven by social media-savvy young people.

8

Black Lives Matter, 2013-Present



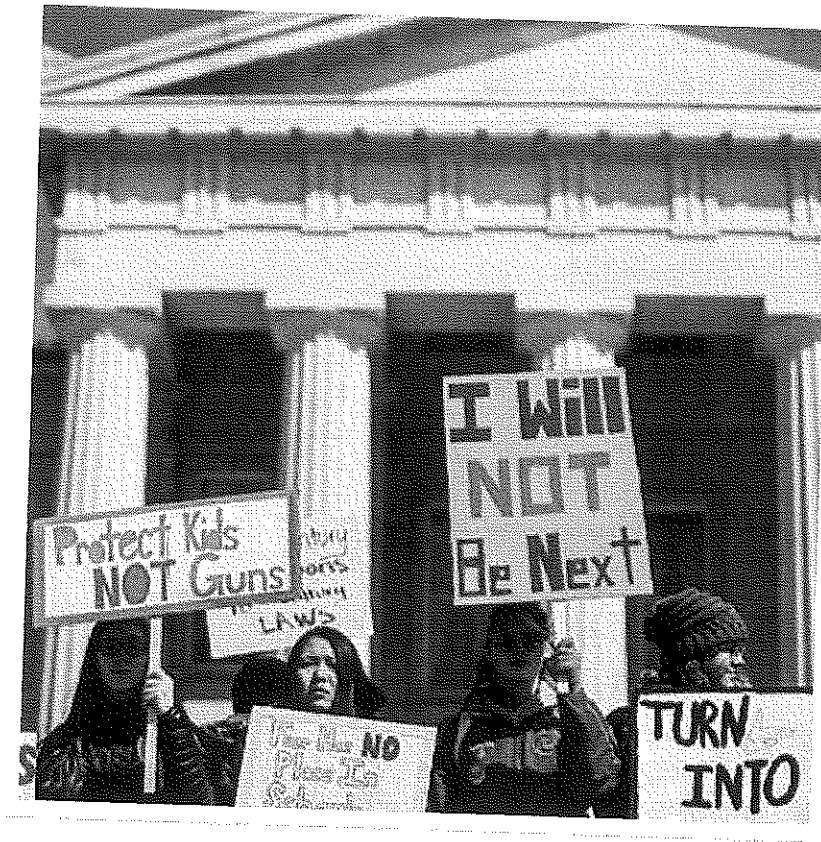
When protesters filled the streets of Ferguson, Missouri, rallying against the killing of Michael Brown, an unarmed Black man in August 2014, Black Lives Matter had already been in existence for about a year. But the Ferguson protests galvanized the movement into something bigger and stronger than ever before. Fueled by youth whose daily experiences with racism and violence could no longer be tolerated, Black Lives Matter went on to organize demonstrations all over the country and continues to do so today.

Dakota Access Pipeline Protests (DAPL), 2016

In its original plans, the Dakota Access Pipeline was slated to pass near Bismark, North Dakota, a predominantly white community. But when residents opposed it, it was rerouted to pass by the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, threatening their clean water supply and destroying sacred lands. Native activists knew it was no coincidence. Native Americans from all over the country, led by the Standing Rock Sioux, protested the pipeline vehemently, often enduring violence. The movement galvanized young Natives and gave birth to the International Indigenous Youth Council, which works to organize and empower young activists on behalf of the environment.

10

March For Our Lives 2018



February 14, 2018, was a tipping point for advocates of gun control legislation. After a gunman entered Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL and killed 17 students and wounded 17 more, many felt that the country's reluctance to enact common-sense gun legislation had gone on too long. Too many lives had been lost, too many public spaces felt unsafe. As the latest victims of lax gun laws, the students rallied and protested. They staged walk-outs, gathered by the millions in Washington, DC, and have continued to keep the pressure on lawmakers to enact gun legislation. While being pro-gun has always been a feather in the cap of many politicians, the tides are now

turning. For those running on progressive platforms, they can no longer fly under the radar regarding their position on gun reform, as it's now front and center on the campaign trail.

Subscribe to our Newsletter

Receive monthly round-ups of our most popular pieces.

address@email.com

I'm not a robot

reCAPTCHA
[Privacy](#) - [Terms](#)

SUBSCRI

Related Articles