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Fun worksheet activities for high school students

While you may already have causes that you're passionate about, gathering supporters and developing a thoughtful plan to implement change are just as important as the initial idea. The following timeline can help grass-line activists develop a measured approach to achieving their goals.

Step 1 Identify your passion Whether it's protecting a historic building on your college campus, ensuring fair treatment of animals, or fighting for LGBTQ equality, the most passionate student activists have identified a cause that makes them get up every morning believing they can make things better.

Step 2 Educate yourself Depending on the area chosen for activism, there is a good chance that some others have identified this problem. First, find out if others are fighting for the same cause. If so, go to their website and read the topic. To be fully informed, try to find location documents from groups on the other side. Once you have a firm grip on the issue, you can see if you can engage in your strategy for change or the need to take a different approach.

Step 3 Determine your goal When you start making others aware of the injustice you've identified, what action do you hope to encourage? It could be that you want to get signatures in support of a proposed plan for the administration, or maybe you're more interested in raising public awareness. Either way, listing short, intermediate, and long-term goals keeps you organized and shows supporters that you've thought.

Step 4 Atting in Resources resources are available in many forms, and one of the first types a student should find is peer groups. Activists seeking strength in numbers should start on their campus, preferably by contacting a teacher or staff member who will advise you. But do not hesitate to contact the national groups. Many have toolkits full of multimedia strategies and organizational plans.

Step 5 Create an action plan To think about the objectives that need to be achieved in order to achieve this objective. Then develop detailed action steps to complete goals and achieve your goals.

Step 6 Go! You have identified your passion, educated yourself about it, set goals, found resources, and created a plan for success. The last step to becoming a student activist is to bring awareness to your cause. This could mean talking at student club meetings, blogging, organizing a series of speakers, or meeting with the administration. Iconic scenes of protesters taking control of a square or marching down a busy pop street in most people's minds when they think of activists, but there are several other ways to act to make a change. facebook campaigns, hashtag campaigns, mass tweeting: the world of social media and blogs has opened several doors to make injustice known and students can share information about their accounts to maximize their reach. Social media can be used to advance almost any cause. Petitions Students can collect signatures the old-fashioned way - standing at the center of the student union - or do Online. In both parties, petitions help students merge around a problem and show how many people believe in a cause. Petitions are often the first step for many different forms of activism. Media Using the media to raise awareness of a cause can quickly inform potential supporters about the problem and move them by your side. Campus radio programs, school newspapers, and departmental boards are all free advertising platforms. In addition, smartphones allow users to film, edit and spread high-quality videos. The boycott Is the campus cafeteria using unsustainably grown products? Was there racial injustice in campus housing? In such cases, boycotting a space (and getting others to do it with you) could be an effective and quick way to draw attention to your cause. Protests Protests are found in many different forms and serve different functions, depending on how they are used. Common examples of protests include memory vigils, picket lines, rallies, and marches. Strikes Unlike boycotts where people who consume a good or service (such as canteen food or a particular class) refuse patronage, strikes occur when employees or student workers refuse to work because of a policy or action they find unacceptable. Sit-in This protest movement was popularized by students during the Civil Rights Movement. It's about taking up a space and refusing to leave until the requirements are met. This method could be used for a variety of causes, ranging from racial inequalities to longer library hours. Demonstrations This collective method of activism involves gathering a large group of people and demonstrating mass dissatisfaction, typically with a march ending in a place significant to the cause. For example, student activists protesting gender discrimination in college sports may choose to end their march at a large sports field, where a speaker gathers the crowd. Occupations The main difference between a job and a sit-in is that occupations typically take place in larger open spaces. Perhaps the best-known example of recent years is Occupy Wall Street. Civil disobedience Brought into use by Mahatma Gandhi, civil disobedience is a mostly non-violent method of activism in which participants intentionally violate rules, laws or expectations with which they are morally at odds. In student activism, civil disobedience can be used for issues related to religious freedoms and civil liberties. Student activists are at the forefront of defending many issues, whether it's choosing to address sexual health and safety, gender discrimination, religious freedom or another issue, they can draw inspiration and clarify their purpose using the resources described in this section. Diversity and racism Although the Civil Rights Movement began more than half a century ago, racism and lack of diversity continue to be issues both on college campuses and across the country. In the context of higher education, bad race relations can rot, rot, learning distractions or threats to student safety. Although these problems have improved considerably in recent decades, there is still a lot of work to be done. Environmentalism and sustainability The concept of going green – or implementing environmentally friendly and sustainable policies – has been discussed on hundreds of university campuses in recent years. Whether it's pushing for more recycling vessels, encouraging faculty to switch from paper essays to online ones, or installing water stations for refillable bottles, there are many ways to promote the conservation of natural resources in higher education institutions. 350.org Don't know how to facilitate training, structure a workshop, or start a petition campaign? 350.org a database of activities that activists can use, as well as primers on fossil fuel disposal, offshore drilling, and other environmental landmarks. EcoLeaders The National Wildlife Federation has developed step-by-step student guides to design environmental projects on campus. Just as importantly, its web portal encourages students to link and implement projects on their campus. Environmentalism at the Crossroads: Green Activism in America This piece from the Foundation for Economic Education discusses how to move the conversation about sustainability forward. UIC Office of Sustainability Many campuses now have sustainability departments with which student activists can work together to influence change. The efforts of the University of Illinois are particularly expansive. Search the Campus Resources section for ideas that can be implemented on campus or connect with your school's Sustainability Office. LGBTQ & Gender Equality The first widespread efforts at LGBTQ activism began in the late 1960s and stem from broader issues concerning second-wave feminism and the Civil Rights Movement. Student activists were at the forefront of this movement, and many LGBTQ groups on campuses began at the time. Some of the issues that directly affect students include equal access to transgender housing and bathrooms. Political and governmental decisions made within the political arena by government officials have long been scrutinized by student activists, with examples ranging from local government intervention in education to national issues such as the Vietnam War. Many student-led political groups came from other student clubs focused on conservative and liberal platforms. Sexual Health & Safety Student activists manage the range of sexual health issues, with some working to expand abstinence programs in high schools and others looking to increase access birth control. Sexual harassment is an area where most people come together to reduce the number of incidents by providing greater campus security and educating men and women on anti-harassment policies. Social justice movements A broad concept, social justice deals with any mistreatment of an individual by society. In the case of student activism, this may mistreatment of students by the school administration. Issues ranged from racism and sexism to access to health care or education, and students often join larger activism groups to amplify their collective voice. As they say, Learn to walk before running. The same goes for student activism. Students can fall into some common pitfalls if they rush to distribute their plans. Using these tips and tricks to increase your chances of success: Taking advantage of free advertising extra money is a luxury in college, so finding outlets to raise awareness for free is critical. Have a meeting of supporters to determine if anyone has links to the student newspaper or radio station (or to the local news/radio station). Getting inspirational supporters on the same page is an important part of success, but it's perhaps even more important to make sure everyone is transmitting the same information. The last thing a student movement needs is a rogue member, so focus on talking points every time your group communicates. Do not fall prey to discriminatory activism Problems of discrimination are common topics of student activism, and for good reason. No person should live in an environment where they feel discriminated against. But it is equally important not to discriminate while protesting the same concept. For example, asking students to sign a petition against sexual assault policies is a useful mission, but taking an anti-male stance detracts from the central message against discrimination. Remember your goals, goals and steps of action It's easy to get distracted as a movement grows or evolves, but keeping a consistent message and remembering exactly what you said you wanted to accomplish will keep the cause on the task. Students: Knowing your rights as an activist Before you embark on the fight for any cause, it's important that students understand their rights. While all Americans have the right to free speech under the First Amendment, some colleges dictate where free speech – which is called leaflets, the collection of signatures for a petition or piceting – can be done on campus. Some schools may also threaten students with suspension or expulsion to engage in certain types of activism. Students need to know their rights. The American Civil Liberties Union provides comprehensive guidance on First Amendment rights and what students should do if they believe their rights have been violated. Although getting a change to the law or getting the President to create a new anti-discrimination task force can make the news, small acts of civic engagement can make incremental difference in your school community and in the world. Here are some examples of what students of all ages are doing: Description Grade levels Be Street Sweet Gather friends to write inspirational messages on sidewalks that encourage goodwill in the community and reject violence. Middle school, high school, Dream the Dream Research college, and share scholarship applications for undocumented students ease their anxieties about paying for college. High school, Howl college at Hearts Volunteer at a local pet shelter, and share photos of your furry new friends on social media or in class to encourage more pet adoptions. Elementary, Middle School, High School, College Power to the Period Provide women's care items to homeless shelters so that disadvantaged women get the necessary products. Middle school, high school, college Reuse, Reduce, Recycle Challenge friends to opt for reusable water bottles that help protect the environment and reduce waste. Elementary, middle school, high school, College Unite the Voters Register voters on campus so they can participate in elections. High school, student university activists have been at the center of social progress for decades, serving as instrumental participants in movements against sexism and racism and for more civil rights and freedoms. College campuses often serve as incubators for these movements, providing an environment in which students discover their passions and develop skills to combat prejudice and inequality. While parents and educators can worry about these activities, there are several benefits of student activism for students, schools, communities, and the nation. Eddie Thompson Eddie Thompson is no stranger to activism. His parents started attending rallies when Eddie was young, and he worked on numerous basic initiatives in Florida. It has mobilized voters to elect like-minded candidates, also promoting specific public policy changes. She plans to raise her children to be vocal and passionate activists. Activists.