



Resources

These are just a few of the resources available to student leaders. Please check out the *Action for Change* website at:

www.actionforchange.org

Dialogue Resource Guide

Learn how to plan, host, and follow-up with a dialogue on your own campus. The *Raise Your Voice* Campaign invites students nation-wide to participate in student dialogues around service and civic engagement. We need students to host, facilitate, promote, record and report what happens.

Campus/Community Mapping Guide

Mapping is a core community building skill that is a way of life for the best community organizers. When you hear the word “mapping” you probably think of a traditional street map that tells you where something is located and how to get there. Community mapping does the same thing, except the purpose is to evaluate your campus is regard to student voice and student civic engagement. It will also help you locate assets for getting involved and making democratic change on your campus. It can help you get started on implementing desired civic changes. Most importantly, mapping is a tool that initiates a community building process on a campus that helps locate allies and resources so that change is possible.

Civil Disobedience Training

Civil disobedience is defined as refusal to obey civil laws in an effort to induce change in governmental policy or legislation, characterized by the use of passive resistance or other nonviolent means. It has a long and international history. There have been numerous instances of people courageously and nonviolently refusing cooperation with injustice. However, the fusion of organized mass struggle and nonviolence is relatively new. It originated largely with Mohandas Gandhi in 1906 at the onset of the South African campaign for Indian rights. Later, the Indian struggle for complete independence from the British Empire included a number of spectacular nonviolent campaigns. Perhaps the most notable was the year-long Salt campaign in which 100,000 Indians were jailed for deliberately violating the Salt Laws.

www.actupny.org/documents/CDdocuments/CDindex.html

Events to Host and Actions to Take

A Civic Engagement Banquet:

A Civic Engagement Banquet is an exercise to demonstrate the power of voice. We have entered the 21st century and surpassed human exploration in all areas of life to great extremes that were never once imagined, yet the idea of communal participation and cooperation to structure our societies where all partake in the making, have barely reached its potential. In the US we pride ourselves in fact that we live in a democratic society, but statistics indicate that a significant portion of this society does not even participate in the rights that we are privileged with. How can we be so far along, yet so far behind? Who is to blame for this lack of participation? Is it ignorance, apathy, and/or mere choice? To find the answers, we must begin to ask them first.

www.raiseyourvoice.org/CivicEBanquet_files/cebanquet.html

Movie night

Invite students to come together to watch a movie together in a building or a room on campus. You can also choose to facilitate a dialogue about the movie afterward.

Campus Speaker

Invite a local community or national leader to campus to talk about the work they do.

www.actionforchange.org/getstarted/speakers.html

Contact your local, state and national representatives

Write a letter to your representatives on an issue that is important to you. Find out who they are and their contact information at:

www.congress.org

Awareness Posters

Create colorful, bold posters to raise awareness on your campus. Choose an issue or statistic and hang the posters up in prominent campus locations. Make sure you check school policy first.

Whose Responsibility Is It?

Get large photographs depicting poignant social, environmental, or political situations, like starving children, pollution, military torture. (students in the past have been able to get photos donated from local papers, etc). Hang posters up in prominent campus locations with large sheets of blank paper and pens. Ask for responses to: Whose Responsibility Is It? This activity will not only prompt discussion, but could also prompt campus-wide student action.

Ask a teacher for time to make a short presentation or announcement

This takes virtually no energy, little preparation, and only a hint of confidence. Many

teachers are willing to allow their students a few minutes before or after class to present some pressing information or announce upcoming events. Take advantage of your classmates' attention while you have it!

Camp out for a cause

Pitch tents, cardboard boxes, or just roll out your sleeping bags on the quad, common, green, lawn, etc for your cause. Raise awareness for an issue by being visible and bold.

Food, Toy, Book, Clothes Drive

Collect items that may be helpful to specific organizations or populations. Try a twist on the traditional service project by connecting it to an awareness raising campaign or activity. For example, collect clothing for a homeless shelter and give out statistics on poverty and homelessness

Take Back the Night

This event is often done annually on college campuses all across the country to raise awareness about sexual assault and violence against women and men. To find out more, go to www.campusoutreachservices.com/tbn2.htm

Write for the school Newspaper

Write a weekly article about issues that you feel need attention or write a letter to the editor about a pressing topic. Your opinion matters—let it be heard!

Publish an alternative or underground newspaper

Newspaper staff won't let you write? Unsatisfied with the scope of the current paper? Start your own. All you need is a couple friends and a copy machine. You could even start an on-line paper. Go for it.