

How to Plan a Protest



Advocacy Encompasses a Variety of Tactics

- Letter writing, publishing op-eds
- Lobbying, meeting with elected officials
- Educational forums and conferences
- Face to face negotiations
- Accountability sessions
- Walk outs
- Strikes
- Marches
- Rallies
- Civil disobedience
- This presentation will focus on the marches, rallies, and civil disobedience

Why is this so powerful?



The US government sees this:



As more of a problem than this:



 **USA TODAY**

NATION

**Deaths in custody.
Sexual violence.
Hunger strikes. What
we uncovered inside
ICE facilities across the
US**

A USA TODAY Network investigation

 **REUTERS**



WORLD NEWS
DECEMBER 18, 2019 / 8:03 PM / 19 DAYS AGO

Mexican children shiver in tents at U.S. border as temperature freezes

Julio-Cesar Chavez



CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (Reuters) -



ments

Share ...

iot Spagat, Associated Press

Tally of children split at border tops 5,400 in new count

Nation Oct 25, 2019 10:54 AM EST

SAN DIEGO — U.S. immigration authorities

Nonviolent direct action asks: Which side are you on?



What does protest even do?

- Draws attention to an issue
- Peaceful demonstration of numbers and force
- Disrupts business as usual
- Builds community and creates a vision of what a better world could look like
- Allows organizers and participants to meet one another and plan new actions for the movement

Basic Strategy

- What are your goals for the movement?
- What is your desired outcome for this action?
- Who has the power to give you what you want?
- How do you put pressure on the people in power?

Tactics

- What tools do you use to create pressure? (from www.ruckus.org)
 - Protest: speaking out, being vocal about dissent (marches, letter writing, petitions)
 - Non-cooperation: withdrawal from a system to impair functioning (strikes, boycotts)
 - Intervention: directly preventing system from functioning (blocking streets, disrupt meetings)
 - Creative solutions: develop community-based alternatives (free clinics, community gardens)

Points of Intervention

(from: <https://beautifultrouble.org/theory/points-of-intervention/>)

- Point of Production (e.g. Factory A which is collaborating with ICE): usually an economic target, tactics may include strikes, picket lines, factory takeover
- Point of destruction (e.g. detention center): a place where harm/injustice is happening, frequently these locations are less visible to the public, tactic include blockades
- Point of consumption (e.g. retail store selling product from Factory A): where people are interacting with the product or service, tactics include consumer boycott
- Point of decision (e.g. CBP headquarters): the place where the people with power to act are located, tactics include meeting disruption
- Point of assumption (e.g. Border wall): places that build the ideology of problematic systems, tactics highlight the unexamined nature of these beliefs and call attention to them

Tactics Depend on Your Resources

- Tactics depend on how many participants you have and individual risk interest
 - 10,000+ people/lower risk: Women's March - shows large scale dissent and opposition to policy, demonstration of force
 - 50 people/varied risk: rally with some participants blocking entrances
 - 1 person/higher risk: Julia Butterfly Hill's 738 day tree sit, usually requires a small support team of people in lower risk roles
- If you are proposing a tactic that is higher risk, you should be comfortable taking that risk yourself

Suggested Precautions

- If you are discussing an action where you think arrests might occur, discuss using the secure messaging app Signal (<https://signal.org/>) and turn on “disappearing messages”
- Keep details of actions to a small group of organizers until they need to be released
 - Release exact location and timing of action the night before
- Get to know the people you are organizing with and verify (briefly) that they are who they say they are
- “There’s always a cop” – assume that any gathering or online group will have some people in attendance who are police or are people who do not support your message

Location for Your Action

- Location will depend on the overall goals for the action, consider the points of intervention
- Functional: where people in power work or meet and may see your demonstration or be disrupted by it
- Symbolic: represents something important to the movement and allows participants to connect emotionally with the action
- Public: visibility for bystanders, press

Permits

- Seeking a permit should be done on a case by case basis. Discuss with local groups and research protest law in your area: NLG and ACLU are good resources
- In the US, police have a long history of violence towards communities of color and marginalized communities.
 - **Do not collaborate with police.**
- Consider a permit or notify police of a rally if it is essential to the safety for participants or if asked to by a community allied organization.
 - These decisions should be made in line with the goals of the action
- Do NOT notify police about civil disobedience or risking arrest

Scouting

- Send someone to look at the location(s) as you are planning the action
- Usually do this once when you are finalizing locations and again 1-2 days before the action

Participant Recruitment

- Create a basic registration form or facebook event
- Publicize within closed groups on facebook, email lists
- Create a flyer to distribute to local groups, ask that they share it on listservs
- Medical school and colleges are great places to recruit
- Once people are registered, snowball recruitment. Ask them to invite to friends

DOCTORS FOR CAMP CLOSURE

ANNOUNCING THE

D4CC MARCH FOR MIGRANTS WASHINGTON, D.C.



OCTOBER 19TH, 2019 | 10:00AM - 3:00PM

RALLY AT U.S. NAVY MEMORIAL PLAZA

COME HEAR OUR SPEAKERS & JOIN US ON OUR MARCH TO DEMAND
AN END TO MASS INCARCERATION OF IMMIGRANTS AND TO
ENSURE THAT ALL OF THOSE WHO ARRIVE AT PORTS OF ENTRY
HAVE ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE, CONFIDENTIAL
MEDICAL CARE.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US AT: www.d4cc.squarespace.com



VACCINES for MIGRANTS

**SAN YSIDRO
DEC 9-11, 2019**



JOIN US IN AN EMERGENCY ACTION

to demand CBP allow a pop-up flu vaccine clinic
to in order to provide vaccinations for families
being held in detention.

REGISTER YOUR EMAIL FOR INFORMATION AT

<https://tinyurl.com/wf828j2>

OR SCAN THIS QR CODE



Action Roles

- Liaisons
- Marshalls
- Street medics/medical team
- Care team
- Chant and song leaders
- Jail support
- Risking arrest

Liaisons

- Talk with police, press, officials
- Usually people closely involved with organizing the action
- Discuss negotiation plans beforehand: when would you consider demobilization? What demands must be met for the protest to be demobilized?



Marshalls

- Keep rally participants safe
- Ensure participants know where to go
- Inform people of where to stand if they are not risking arrest
- De-escalate conflicts (counter-protesters)
- Training can occur about 1-1.5 hours before action



Street Medics and Care Team

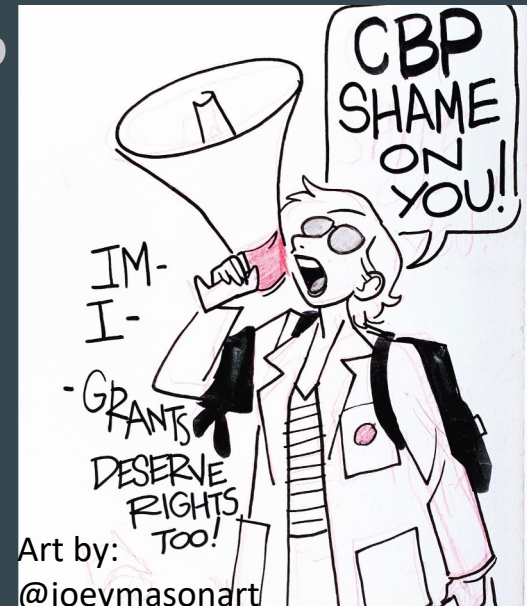
- Street medics
 - Provide medical care for protest attendees
 - Coordinate transport to hospital/off site if necessary
 - Look out for safety concerns/risky situations and alert marshal team
- Care team
 - Provide water, food, basic comfort supplies to participants





Chant Leaders

- Compile list of chants and songs beforehand
- Lead chants, help modulate crowd energy
- Rally speakers/Bullhorn speeches
 - May have formal or informal speaker list
 - Helpful to have a couple people ready to give impromptu 1-5 minute bullhorn speeches during the action
- At least one person should plan to MC the rally, letting speakers know who is on deck to talk, filling in when there is downtime



Direct Action Specific Roles

- Risking arrest
 - Personal decision but encourage those with most privilege and power to take more risks
 - Practice sitting with the uncomfortable: If you aren't comfortable risking arrest for an action, what conditions would need to change for this to be different in the future
- Training in advance of action for people who may risk arrest
 - Build solidarity and trust among team members (vital for action success)
 - Practice setting boundaries with authority figures: practice saying no
 - Psychological preparation as arrest is invasive
 - Cover specific risks to individuals

Direct Action Specific Roles

- Jail support team
 - Support people risking arrest by keeping track of their belongings, emergency contact info
 - If arrests occur, determine where the arrestees were taken
 - Contact lawyers
 - Meet people who have been arrested on release from jail with food.
 - Check in with people
- All jail support team members should go through a nonviolent direct action training in preparation for the action



D4CC, Never Again Action, and Jewish Action San Diego members who were arrested at an action at Border Patrol headquarters

Legal Observers

- Contact the National Lawyers Guild before your action to get legal observers
- They document what is happening at an action and are an essential part of any rally/protest/direct action
 - They are NOT your personal lawyers during the action and cannot give direct legal advice



Press and Media

- Draft press briefings to invite local and national reporters to your action.
 - Invite reporters who have previously covered the topic you are organizing around
- Have someone designated to take photos and video.
 - This is important for your own media coverage of your action and may be useful in legal proceedings
- Media coverage is a tactic, not a strategy. The press have the power to elevate your movement's message but they cannot make the policy changes that meet your demands

Celebrate and Debrief

- Direct action builds valuable community between people in the movement
- Fighting for liberation can be simultaneously healing and exhausting
- Build time for participants to decompress together after the action
- Check in with participants, especially those who participated in higher risk actions in the days and weeks following the event
- Be thoughtful and discuss privilege and intersectional identities, we all experience the violence of state oppression in different ways. Listen when people offer critiques of the action and workshop ways to improve.
- Talk about ways to support and care for one another

Trainings

- To set up a virtual training, email:
healthprofessionalhandbook@gmail.com
- Action guides available for the different action roles
- Local activist groups, Ruckus Society, and National Lawyers Guild also have trainings