

# Research: Activist

In which you become awesome at finding information about a person who is doing something good in the world, that you care about.

You will be using the following pieces to create a short, inspiring graphic novel about your activist to present to the class.

Choose someone who is #goals.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Choose a Problem **Due** \_\_\_\_\_

Pick a global or local problem that affects you deeply. How does it affect you? What do you already know about it? What do you want to know?

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Choose an Activist **Due** \_\_\_\_\_

Do some preliminary research into your problem. Make a list of 10 people who are doing active work to solve the problem. Narrow it to three, then narrow it to one.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Source List **Due** \_\_\_\_\_

Keep track of every source you use. You will need at least three sources; extra credit for more sources. Make proper MLA citations.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Source Reflections **Due** \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you choose each of your sources? How do you know it's a reliable source? What bias does the source have?

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Direct Quotes **Due** \_\_\_\_\_

At least 10 direct quotes from your activist, and at least 10 quotes from your other sources. Include brief reasoning for why you chose them.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Activist Biography **Due** \_\_\_\_\_

1-2 pages detailing the basics of your activist's life. This includes childhood, causes of activism, participation in their cause, and either where they are now or the circumstances of their passing.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Activist Influence **Due** \_\_\_\_\_

Find at least one source that agrees with your activist and one source who disagrees. Summarize each source's position, with 2 quotes each. Then you *finally* get to give me your opinion of your activist.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Graphic Novella **Due** \_\_\_\_\_

Pulling from all the information you've gathered, create a 2-4 page graphic novella telling about your activist. This can cover their whole life, or just one episode from it.

**find yourself a new hero and give us all hope!**

# 1. Choose a Problem.

Take a look at the poster we created together about the problems of the world. Pick 3 or more and answer the following questions.

What's the problem?	How does it affect me?
What do I already know?	What do I want to know?
What's the problem?	How does it affect me?
What do I already know?	What do I want to know?
What's the problem?	How does it affect me?
What do I already know?	What do I want to know?

**Now circle the problem you most want to address.**

## 2. Choose an Activist.

Now that you know what issue you want to focus on, you need to find someone inspiring and interesting who is working on that issue.

It's time. 4.



5.

6.

Keep track of all your search terms. 7.

1. 8.

2. 9.

3.

(Ideas for searches include multiple different ways of naming your issue, the name of your issue + activist, + important people, + leaders, etc.)

Keep a list of 10 activists and things that interest you about each one:

Name of activist	Key words

Highlight three of these names. Google each name and read a top-10 hit article about each person. Write down the names of the articles here:

1.

2.

3.

**now choose: MY ACTIVIST IS \_\_\_\_\_**

### 3a. **Source list.**

One of the most important parts of research is giving credit to the sources who have done hard work bringing you the information you're using. Keep track of them here, and feel free to add more - you need **at least 3**.

Source #1

-Author: \_\_\_\_\_  
-Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
-Format (book, website, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
-Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_  
-Date Published: \_\_\_\_\_  
-URL (if online resource): \_\_\_\_\_

Source #2

-Author: \_\_\_\_\_  
-Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
-Format (book, website, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
-Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_  
-Date Published: \_\_\_\_\_  
-URL (if online resource): \_\_\_\_\_

Source #3

-Author: \_\_\_\_\_  
-Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
-Format (book, website, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
-Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_  
-Date Published: \_\_\_\_\_  
-URL (if online resource): \_\_\_\_\_

Source #4

-Author: \_\_\_\_\_  
-Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
-Format (book, website, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
-Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_  
-Date Published: \_\_\_\_\_  
-URL (if online resource): \_\_\_\_\_

**Remember:**



**does NOT count!**

**WIKIPEDIA**  
The Free Encyclopedia

Source #5

- Author: \_\_\_\_\_
- Title: \_\_\_\_\_
- Format (book, website, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_
- Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_
- Date Published: \_\_\_\_\_
- URL (if online resource): \_\_\_\_\_

Source #6

- Author: \_\_\_\_\_
- Title: \_\_\_\_\_
- Format (book, website, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_
- Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_
- Date Published: \_\_\_\_\_
- URL (if online resource): \_\_\_\_\_

Source #7

- Author: \_\_\_\_\_
- Title: \_\_\_\_\_
- Format (book, website, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_
- Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_
- Date Published: \_\_\_\_\_
- URL (if online resource): \_\_\_\_\_

Source #8

- Author: \_\_\_\_\_
- Title: \_\_\_\_\_
- Format (book, website, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_
- Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_
- Date Published: \_\_\_\_\_
- URL (if online resource): \_\_\_\_\_



**Be vewwwwwy quiet. I'm hunting info!**

### 3b. **Source list: Works Cited page.**

Now make a works cited page (separate sheet) of your sources using MLA format. Examples of the most common source citations are below; if you need further information, please check at the Purdue OWL online <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

1. Write "Works Cited" at the top of the page, in the center.
2. All entries should be in alphabetical order.
3. Double-spaced, with indents after the first line of each entry.

#### 4. **Books:**

Lastname, Firstname. *Title of Book*. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium of Publication.

**ex.** Gleick, James. *Chaos: Making a New Science*. New York: Penguin, 1987. Print.

#### 5. **Print Articles:**

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* Day Month Year: pages. Medium of publication.

**ex.** Poniewozik, James. "TV Makes a Too-Close Call." *Time* 20 Nov. 2000: 70-71. Print.

#### 6. **Whole Website:**

Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). *Name of Site*.

Version number. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation (if available). Medium of publication. Date of access.

**ex.** *The Purdue OWL Family of Sites*. The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue U, 2008. Web. 23 Apr. 2008.

#### 7. **Web Article:**

**ex.** Bernstein, Mark. "10 Tips on Writing the Living Web." *A List Apart: For People Who Make Websites*. A List Apart Mag., 16 Aug. 2002. Web. 4 May 2009.

## 4. Source reflections.



So great, you've got sources; now what? In addition to finding and crediting sources, it's unbelievably important to be able to tell what is good, reliable information, and what is not. In fact, that might be the most important skill in all of learning, after maybe asking questions. Developing your ability to know when you're being lied to, manipulated, or otherwise fooled is IMPORTANT!!!! So let's reflect on our sources. Pick 3 sources to reflect on.

Source # \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the author's background? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What else has the publisher published? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Does the source cite sources? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Does the source present more facts or opinions? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Is the source biased? How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What type of source is it? (website, scholarly journal, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why did you choose this source? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Remember:** .edu and .gov are held to specific standards of factual accuracy in a way that .org and .com are not. Most information about a website's author and publisher can be found in the **ABOUT** tab or button, often at the bottom of the page.

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\_\_\_\_\_











## 6. Activist Biography

At this point, you have read extensively about your activist. Now it's time to start piecing together a 1-2 page biography. Use the following notes to inform your writing. A biography is supposed to be **fact-based** and as unbiased as possible. Obviously you are interested in your activist and share some of their beliefs and values. Try to write this biography in such a way that nobody would be able to disagree with what you are saying - that is, make it **FACTUAL**. You will also be citing your sources.

- BANNED: the words "I" and "you," except as part of a direct quote
- BANNED: opinions, except for those of the activist, presented in an unbiased way, preferably as a direct quote.
- DOUBLE-CHECK: don't start more than 25% of your sentences with the name of your activist or their pronoun (she, he, they, etc.)

### STEP 1: Relevant Background

Question	Answer	How did this influence the activist's later life?
When were they born?		
Where were they born?		
Who were their parents?		
What was their education like?		
What was their first employment?		
Who were early influences?		
Other background info		

## **Step 2: Call to Arms (how the activist becomes active)**

Not everyone becomes an activist. What happened in your activist's life that made them dedicate their energies to solving a big problem?

1. Something or someone new happens, or the activist witnesses an event. Describe it.
2. The activist reacts. What do they do and say?
3. The new thing responds to the activist. What happens?
4. What **problem** does the new thing present to the activist?
5. How can the activist solve the problem?
6. What does the activist decide to do?
7. What are the activist's major emotions?

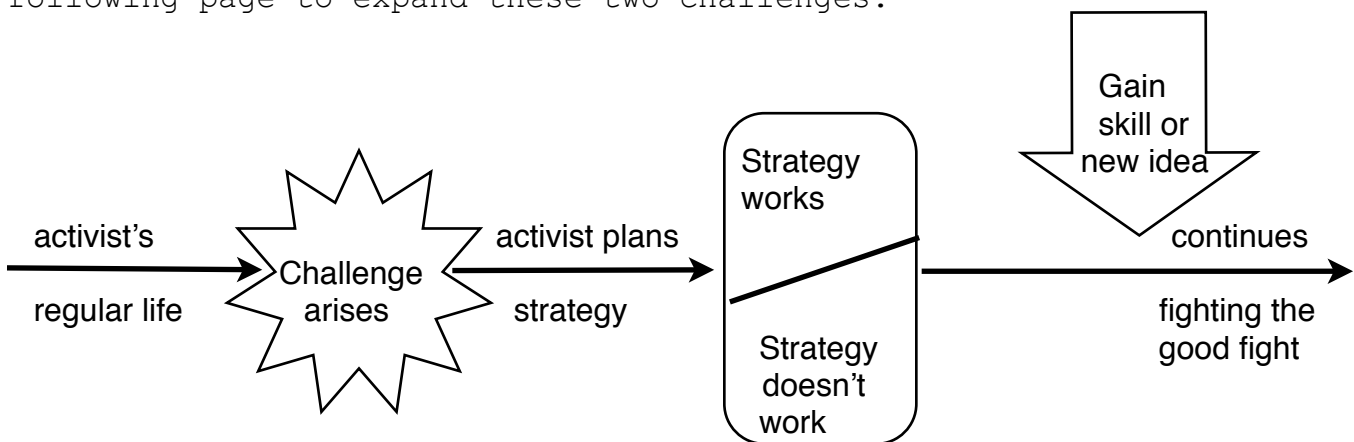
(Side note to sophomores who had me as freshmen: are you noticing something here? Something... heroic? Is it different?)

**Step 3: Challenges faced. AT LEAST 2.**

Your activist has run into a few challenges, some perhaps more interesting than others. Make a short list of challenges your activist has faced:

Challenge faced	Outcome

Challenges we face in life follow a general pattern. Choose two of your activist's challenges from above and highlight them. Then use the following page to expand these two challenges.



A1. What is the activist doing just prior to the challenge?

A2. How does the challenge arise? What is it?

A3. How does the activist plan their strategy?

A4. Did the strategy work? What happened?

A5. What lesson does the activist learn?

A6. How do they carry on after that?

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B1. What is the activist doing just prior to the challenge?

B2. How does the challenge arise? What is it?

B3. How does the activist plan their strategy?

B4. Did the strategy work? What happened?

B5. What lesson does the activist learn?

B6. How do they carry on after that?



#### Step 4: Accomplishments

Finally, we need to look at the impact your activist has had on their field. People make an impact in many different ways. Accomplishments could include publishing an important book or paper, leading a protest, passing legislation, organizing a community response, creating provocative art, mediating between two groups, becoming a lawmaker, etc. Make a list.

Accomplishment	Impact on the cause

**Congratulations! You have all the info!**

**Now to make the biography...**

This is going to be about 5 paragraphs or so. Remember, facts only! You have all of the following info, which you can add to, of course.

Paragraph 1 = Intro and Relevant Background

Paragraph 2 = Call to Arms (how the activist became active)

Paragraph 3 = Challenge #1

Paragraph 4 = Challenge #2

Paragraph 5 = Accomplishments and Conclusion

What you need are strong transitions and academic language to tie it all together. Right! Onward!

