



Writing for Change

RAISING AWARENESS OF DIFFERENCE, POWER, AND DISCRIMINATION

4.15 Acting on Your Agenda

Objectives

Create an awareness of social justice issues operative in a particular major or field.

Stimulate involvement in an activism project that addresses one of the identified issues.

Materials needed

Pen and paper

Copies of the handout

Community resources

Time needed

Several hours

Instructor directions

Ask your students to identify a problem related to difference, power, and discrimination that affects people working in, or served by, their major or field.

Have them participate in an activism project related to that issue.

Have them write a report describing the activity and its effects, and making recommendations for future action.



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4.15 Acting on Your Agenda Handout

Directions

Participate in an activism project related to an issue in your major or field.

Identify a problem related to difference, power, and discrimination that affects people working in or served by your major or field. What forces are operating in this situation?

Address the problem, using one of the following strategies, or create your own:

- Head a letter-writing campaign to legislators
- Organize a fundraiser
- Stage a peaceful protest
- Write a script for a film addressing the problem
- Start a magazine or other publication

Write a report describing your activity and its effects and making recommendations for future action. Answer the following questions:

What specific issue or problem did you choose to address?

What strategy or mechanism did you develop to address it?

Who participated? Who did not participate? Why?

What changes do you think your project created?

Why do you think people responded to your activity as you did?

In future action, what would you change? What would you keep the same?

What would you recommend for others interested in organizing a similar activity?