

## 3.5 YOUTH ACTIVISM

### How can students be instrumental in changing laws or policies on issues they care about?

<b>C3 Framework Indicator</b>	<p><b>D2.Civ.1.3-5.</b> Distinguish the responsibilities and powers of government officials at various levels and branches of government and in different times and places.</p> <p><b>D2.Civ.3.3-5.</b> Examine the origins and purposes of rules, laws, and key U.S. constitutional provisions.</p> <p><b>D2.Civ.6.3-5.</b> Describe ways in which people benefit from and are challenged by working together, including through government, workplaces, voluntary organizations, and families.</p>	
<b>Staging the Compelling Question</b>	<p>In this inquiry, students will explore their thoughts on youth activism, the strategies used during student movements, and determine how they may take action on issues they care most about such as Black Lives Matter and climate change.</p>	
<b>Supporting Question 1</b>	<b>Supporting Question 2</b>	<b>Supporting Question 3</b>
What are the most effective methods of activism?	How have German youth been engaged in protests as a form of activism?	What lessons can be learned from German Youth movements?
<b>Formative Performance Task</b>	<b>Formative Performance Task</b>	<b>Formative Performance Task</b>
Students will rank the effectiveness of nonviolent strategies and then compile a composite ranking of the examples of activism to determine which students, overall, felt was the most effective.	Students will watch the video of German youth speaking about their participation in Fridays for the Future, and explore a video on the Black Lives Matter movement in Germany.	In small groups with others who are passionate about the same issues, students will perform a role play or skit using a nonviolent method of protest to demonstrate how they can be a youth activist on their selected issue.
<b>Featured Sources</b>	<b>Featured Sources</b>	<b>Featured Sources</b>
<b>Source A:</b> Handout 3.5.1	<b>Source A:</b> Handout 3.5.2 <b>Source B:</b> <i>Fridays for Future: climate protest kicks off with Greta Thunberg in Berlin</i> <b>Source C:</b> <i>Here's why the Black Lives Matter movement spread to Germany</i>	
<b>Summative Performance Task</b>	<p><b>Argument:</b> Construct an argument (e.g., detailed outline, poster, essay) that addresses the compelling question using specific claims and relevant evidence from historical or contemporary sources while acknowledging competing views.</p> <p><b>Extension:</b> Students can research and create a timeline of key events around a social justice issue within the United States.</p>	
<b>Taking Informed Action</b>	<p><b>Understand:</b> There are hundreds of protests that take place throughout the world every day.</p> <p><b>Assess:</b> Research a recent nonviolent protest in your area or state on a social issue that interests you.</p> <p><b>Act:</b> Reach out to the protest organizers to determine how you can support their cause.</p>	

## ⌚ COMPELLING QUESTION

- How can students be instrumental in changing laws or policies on issues they care about?

## INQUIRY OVERVIEW

In this inquiry, students will explore their thoughts on youth activism and the strategies used during student movements, and then determine how they can take action on issues they care most about, such as Black Lives Matter and climate change. By the end of this inquiry, students will become familiar with youth movements in Germany and assess their own ability to be change agents as students.

## TEACHER BACKGROUND

There have been numerous movements in Germany before and after World War II in which youth have played a pivotal role. From the 1968 West Berlin student movement to the 2018 Fridays for the Future movement, German youth have been ambassadors of change. For example, in 1968, which was a year of civil unrest in the United States, there were also protests in Germany and other parts of Europe including France and the former Czechoslovakia. The youth in West Berlin protested to express their anger over former Nazis allowed to be in powerful positions in government, laws passed that were undemocratic, and students not given a voice in how their universities were run. In 2018, there was a reemergence of youth activism through the Fridays for the Future movement, which mobilized German youth to take to the streets every Friday, instead of going to school, to campaign for better climate protection. This movement continued into 2020, and combined with the protests organized by Black youth in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.



Youth activism by people under age 21 has led to a shift in public protest and advocacy for many issues. Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and even TikTok have become the newest tools for young activists in the twenty-first century—and have changed the way youth participate in activism globally.

**⌚ TIME:** One to two 45-minute classes

## INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

- Examples of Activism (**Handout 3.5.1**)
- Video Reflection Worksheet (**Handout 3.5.2**)
- Bloomberg Quicktake: Now. (2020, July 20). *Here's Why the Black Lives Matter Movement Spread to Germany*. YouTube. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POvw6pdd\\_7I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POvw6pdd_7I). (5:06)
- CBC Kids News. (2020, January 6). *Want to Be a Youth Activist? Here Are Some Tips* | CBC Kids News. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1Fx3m2oPC4>. (3:21)
- Guardian News. (2021, September 24). *Fridays for Future: Climate Protest Kicks Off with Greta Thunberg in Berlin*. YouTube. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzH6vyN2\\_uw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzH6vyN2_uw). (1:59)



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top/letsexplore](http://www.goethe.de/top/letsexplore)

## INTRODUCTORY QUESTION

Ask students: "What is activism?"

Explain to students that there are many forms of activism, such as protests, marches, strikes, boycotts, signing petitions, writing letters to officials, writing music, books, and poetry, and so forth.

For more background information on activism, as a class, watch the video, Want to Be a Youth Activist? Here Are Some Tips | CBC Kids News.

Note: If needed, provide a list of key vocabulary and terms such as civil rights, discrimination, oppression, police brutality, human rights, inequalities, protest, boycott, strikes, petitions, environmentalists, and the like.

### ► Resource

- CBC Kids News. (2020, January 6). *Want to Be a Youth Activist? Here Are Some Tips* | CBC Kids News. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1Fx3m2oPC4>. (3:21)

## ❓ SUPPORTING QUESTION 1

**What are the most effective methods of activism?**

### ► Formative Performance Task

Provide students with the list of nonviolent strategies on **Handout 3.5.1** that are used to bring awareness on an issue, and ask students to rank them for effectiveness. Students can work independently or with a partner.

Compile a composite ranking of the examples of activism to determine which one the students, overall, felt was the most effective. Ask for volunteers to explain their answers.

Students should reach the conclusion that these strategies will all help raise awareness of an issue and advocate for change.

### ► Resource

- Examples of Activism (**Handout 3.5.1**)

## ❓ SUPPORTING QUESTION 2

**How have German youth been engaged in protests as a form of activism?**

### ► Formative Performance Task

Watch the video Fridays for Future: Climate Protest Kicks Off with Greta Thunberg in Berlin on German youth participating in Fridays for the Future. Explain to students that this news clip will highlight students close to their age participating in protests around the issue of climate change. As they watch the video, students should answer the questions on **Handout 3.5.2**.

Ask students to share their responses and discuss as a class. Once this is done, allow students to work in pairs and explore the Here's Why the Black Lives Matter Movement Spread to Germany video. Students may be asked to answer the same questions as for the climate change protests.

### ► Resources

- Video Reflection Worksheet (**Handout 3.5.2**)
- Bloomberg Quicktake: Now. (July 2020, July 20). *Here's Why the Black Lives Matter Movement Spread to Germany*. YouTube. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOvw6pdd\\_7l](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOvw6pdd_7l). (5:06)

- Guardian News. (2021, September 24). *Fridays for Future: Climate Protest Kicks Off with Greta Thunberg in Berlin*. YouTube. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzH6vyN2\\_uw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzH6vyN2_uw). (1:59)

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### SUPPORTING QUESTION 3

**What lessons can be learned from German Youth movements?**

► **Formative Performance Task**

After exploring German youth movements, ask students to think about one issue within their school, community, or world that they would like to change or stop. After a minute, call on each student to provide their answer, and record these topics on the whiteboard. Make a note of the number of times students share the same issues and highlight this with students.

After the activity is finished, ask students to form groups of three to four with others who are passionate about the same issues. Once the groups are formed, explain to students that they will perform a role-play or skit using a method of activism (forming a club, writing letters, creating posters or signs, writing a petition, etc.) to demonstrate how they can be a youth activist on their selected issue.

### ✓ SUMMATIVE PERFORMANCE TASK

**How can students be instrumental in changing laws or policies on issues they care about?**

Construct an argument (e.g., detailed outline, poster, essay) that addresses the compelling question using specific claims and relevant evidence from contemporary sources, while acknowledging competing views.

### ⊕ EXTENSION (OPTIONAL) TASK

Students can research and create a timeline of key events around a social justice issue within the United States.

### ★ TAKING INFORMED ACTION

**Understand:** There are hundreds of protests that take place throughout the world every day.

**Assess:** Research a recent nonviolent protest in your area or state on a social issue that interests you.

**Act:** Reach out to the protest organizers to determine how you can support their cause.

### CONCEPTS LIST

- |                      |                    |                            |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| • Civil rights       | • Activism         | • Climate change           |
| • Civil disobedience | • Protest          | • Black Lives Matter (BLM) |
| • Human rights       | • Oppression       | • Democracy                |
| • Inequalities       | • Police brutality |                            |
| • Social justice     | • Solidarity       |                            |