Methods Of Nonviolent Protest and Persuasion | continued from p15

Citzens’ Noncooperation with Government
63. Boycott of legislative bodies
65. Boycott of elections
66. Boycott of government employment and positions
71. Boycott of government debt, agencies, and other bodies
72. Withdrawal from government educational institutions
73. Boycott of government-supported organizations
74. Refusal of assistance to enforcement agents
75. Refusal to accept appointed officials
76. Refusal to dissolve existing institutions

Citzens’ Alternatives to Obedience
77. Reluctant and slow compliance
78. Nonobedience in absence of direct supervision
79. Sit-in
80. Noncooperation with consumption and deportations
81. Civil disobedience of “illegal” laws

Action by Government Personnel
82. Selective refusal of assistance by government agencies
83. Blocking of lines of command and information
84. Staging and obstruction
85. General administrative noncooperation
86. Judicial noncooperation
87. Deliberate inefficiency and selective noncooperation by enforcement agents

Domestic Governmental Action
88. Quasi-legal sanctions and delays
89. Noncooperation by constituent governmental units

THE METHODS OF NONVIOLENT INTERVENTION

Physical Intervention
90. Sit-in
91. Stand-in
92. Nonviolent obstruction
93. Nonviolent occupation

Social Intervention
94. Stall-in
95. Speak-in
96. Guerrilla theater

Political Intervention
27. Over-riding of administrative systems
98. Civil disobedience of “neutral” laws
We have the power to bring Trump down.

You might not feel this in your bones, but the resistance to Trump has already accomplished its extraordinary amount. Many people have taken part in protests since Trump took office. At any given period in US history, the height of the Vietnam anti-war movement, we could not win. It energized the House and many other resistance to Trump. Bringing him down can of course mean blunting his po

Fortunately, there is a powerful body of collective wisdom we can turn to for guidance. Movements of the past offer concrete lessons and inspiration for moments like these. Time and again, against long odds, popular movements around the world have dismantled dictatorships, overturned authoritarian policies, and secured progressive goals. The lessons most affected by injustice hurt communities. Trump’s brutal tactics and callous disregard for the communities and issues relevant, update them.

The lessons are powerful but straightforward. Target institutions and leaders who support Trump — not just his closest associates. Turn the political heat up on决不把人民拖到对立面，让他们陷入绝望。当压力越大时，政府的霸王政策就会越有效。全国的民众将对我们说：‘我们不能允许这种情况继续下去。’

We can’t just continue to work on a single movement on our side; we must also build more and build them as such an

Every since the 2016 presidential elections, we’ve been served a million versions of what amounts to the same tired story. Whether it’s woven through the pages of the New York Times or written in all-capital letters on the Facebook page of your self-appointed guru uncle, it’s usually goes something like this: ‘We’ve never been more divided. We need to reach across the aisle, “look past” our identities or differences — even if it ro

Some basic lessons of authoritarians. For decades, scholars of authoritarian regimes have studied the mechanisms of
time he first hit the polls. Trump is not just what we oppose. Mobilize our strongest allies and we need to reach across the aisle’ as much as reach out to our prospective allies to ensure we recognize our shared interests, and the power we have as a movement. Demos, other policy experts, are already

A table of contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>TO WEAKEN TRUMP, TARGET HIS ENABLERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ACT LIKE THE MAJORITY WE ALREADY ARE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table of Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
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It's not a bad thing to protest Trump himself — it's useful to counter his lies and to have high-visibility displays of opposition to his abuses. But if we fail to pull away the sources of his support, we could protect Trump until we're in the face without ever bringing him down.

Targeting Trump's enablers entails putting pressure on Democrats as much as — or in some cases more than — Republicans. Democrats are generally more susceptible to progressive pressure than Republicans, because progressives are a part of their primary voting base. And Democrats have considerably more power to impede Trump's actions than they've been willing to employ. Now that Democrats control the House, they have the power to hold hearings and conduct investigations that shine a spotlight on Trump's corruption and duplicity. They also can pursue impeachment.

They also can pursue impeachment more than — or in some cases more than — we'll need to continue this work. If you design voting blocks, say, to protect Atlanta, Boston, Boulder, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco, and Seattle — all excellent targets for protest and pressure.

Many groups and individuals in the resistance already have been following some of these strategies, and doing so with persistence and skill. To dream big and push for what we really want — Trump out of office and robust progressive alternatives — we'll need not only to continue this work but to escalate the pressure creatively, nonviolently, and in the words of the direct-action group Rise and Resist, “with all the joy we can muster.”

No one is demanding that every protest be nonviolent. Confrontation is the most effective means of polarizing an issue. Research shows that perceptions of protest as violent or destructive of property tend to discourage participation, and make a movement less effective. Confrontation, however, is not the same as violence. Confrontational tactics can draw people to a cause, even when the protesters are criticized as too abrasive.

You wouldn't always know it. The message that protest doesn't work is deeply ingrained in our political and popular culture. Anyone who tries to join a demonstration will hear the same refrain: “You're not making a noise and accomplishing nothing.”

This message is wrong. Dangerously wrong. In recent decades, scholars have pushed back against the monolithic myth with numerous accounts of how protests changed public opinion, shaped policy, and altered the course of history. There is even quantitative evidence. A study by Daniel Gillion at the University of Pennsylvania analyzed civil rights legislation from the 1950s through the 1990s and found that every protest in a representatives district made that representative one percent more likely to vote in favor of civil rights issues. A nonviolent protest therefore can be designed to isolate, weaken, and sometimes destroy a target of nonviolent action.
This is the response to offer those who say that protest is too disruptive. Protest polarizes, and successful polarization moves people from neutral to taking a stand.

Not Everyone Has to Like Us

We don’t need to change the minds of angry Trump supporters to win. We don’t need everyone to like our movement or approve of our tactics. A large majority of the public opposed the Tea Party, yet they captured the agenda of the Republican Party. The civil rights movement achieved huge legislative victories because the public came to support the need for concerted action on civil rights even as they disapproved of the movement’s tactics. Research shows that even tactics the public dislikes can increase support for an issue. Even a movement that is seen as unpopular can continue winning people to its cause. Public opinion never gave wide support to the Occupy movement—approval of its Occupy encampments often polled lower than it did for the Tea Party. Yet through Occupy, public concern over inequality grew.

Of course, this does not mean that we should be purposefully alienating people. There is a fine line between protest to win and political alienation and radicalization. If we come across as deliberately divisive, we risk alienating our side and radicalizing potential supporters. Protesters that are disruptive or dramatic an issue should still appeal to common sense values.

The fully developed vision includes rigorous backup for the policy wonks in the room, and it is presented in its most common sense version so people can see and feel what it will be like to have, for example, an economy that puts them first instead of profit. A well-developed vision includes values.

The feminist activist and author of State of Independence, Julie Dolan, has written that injustice is the most powerful need of human beings: to move toward a vision. The domestic worker Gail Williams said, “Come and go with me to that land, where I’m bound. . . .” The bystander would ask, “Where are you going?”

The full spectrum of allies, according to many savvy strategy practitioners, can be useful for understanding and mobilizing for the 2018 midterm elections, but it applies to conflicts beyond electoral work. An emphasis on defining and expanding our base can help movements and organizers break out of a defensive posture. We call on you to lead with strong vision rather than weakening down our ideologies to meet some mythical middle.

The implication, though, is that progressive, or even moderate general election candidates, who are willing to embrace an economic program that puts the needs of working people first, will be able to win.

Excerpt from Beautiful Trouble:

Activists are often good at analyzing systemic social problems, but less good at thinking systematically about organizing. Activism is about using your power and voice to make change. Organizing is about that, too, but it’s also about activating and empowering others, it helps to think in terms of groups. Successful movement-building hinges on being able to organize a society in terms of specific places or networks, some of which are inequalities (unions, churches, schools), others of which are visible or invisible, like youth subcultures or demographic grids.

Analyzing your spectrum of allies can help you to identify and mobilize the networks around you. A spectrum of allies can be used to map out a campaign or to strategize for a whole social movement.

Here’s how a spectrum of allies analysis works in each wedge you can place different individuals (or specific name them), groups, or institutions. Moving from left to right, identify your active allies who agree with you and are fighting alongside you; your passive allies: folks who agree with you but aren’t doing anything about it; neutral (skele-toters), the unengaged; passive opposition: people who disagree with you but aren’t trying to stop you and finally your active opposition.

Some activist groups only speak or work with those in the first wedge (active allies), building insular, will-factional, marginal subcultures that are incomprehensible to everyone else. Others behave as if everyone is in the last wedge (active opposition), playing out the “story of the righteous will” acting as if the whole world is against them. Both of these approaches virtually guarantee failure. Movementists are not by overpowering their active opposition, but by shifting the spectrum out from under them.

The strategist that progressives used to such powerful effect in mobilizing for the 2008 midterm elections, but it applies to conflicts beyond electoral work. An emphasis on defining and expanding our base can help movements and organizers break out of a defensive posture. We call on you to lead with strong vision rather than weakening down our ideologies to meet some mythical middle.

The reason that progressives need to figure out why working-class white people voted for Trump, the implication, stated or unstated, was that progressives and Democrats should focus on trying to understand and convert these Trump stalwarts. If we want Trump out of office, how do we shrink his base, and build ours?

The spectrum of allies suggests that 72 percent of voters believe “Trump is too disruptive or dangerous to be president.”

Some activist groups only speak or work with those in the first wedge (active allies), building insular, will-factional, marginal subcultures that are incomprehensible to everyone else. Others behave as if everyone is in the last wedge (active opposition), playing out the “story of the righteous will” acting as if the whole world is against them. Both of these approaches virtually guarantee failure. Movementists are not by overpowering their active opposition, but by shifting the spectrum out from under them.
REMEMBER THE FUTURE

Artwork courtesy of We Will Not Be Silent
The good news is that everyone and their grand aunt Sally has been flooding the streets, occupying Congressional offices, getting out the vote, and generally throwing their hats into the ring space an unnaturally humid reality TV show host front office.

The ranks of the resistance have swollen with more and more who knew to take action politically. Welcome aboard! And while we’re all glad you’re here, you need to touch base about something vital in order to build a noticeable and unstoppable movement for true justice and equity: WE MUST LISTEN TO AND FOLLOW THOSE MOST AFFECTED BY INJUSTICE.

What does that mean? Well, if seeing immigrants being rounded up and sent to detention centers in their home country — making your blood boil, you’re not alone. Immigrants were facing uprooting and detentions and deportations well before you ever knew they existed. You may have just been fighting to defend their rights. A number of badass immigration rights groups have been on these front lines for years — they hop DREAMers and RACIES to the ACLU — and you’ll want to draw on their expertise and follow their leadership when joining the fight.

Or maybe the increasing visibility of police violence against black Americans has you wanting to take action? Black Lives Matter, the NAACP (Black Youth Project 100), and more have been raising awareness, protesting, and changing the conversation for many years. They have well-developed strategies for moving forward.

All this is to say: There’s no need to reinvent the wheel. Before you charge ahead with good intentions, just take a minute (or 10) to do your research. Most of the core issues we’ve seen echoing through-out our history for the past several hundred years — disenfranchisement, misogyny, racism, corruption — are institutional. You’re not the first person to rigorously pick apart those that are great, because smart people with good intentions often do their best to fight those battles. And they need more of us on board.

This isn’t to say that those already fighting the good fight have all the answers or that there isn’t room for new initiatives, leadership, and strategy. But what you need is that if you’re going to act in solidarity, you first need to learn from them and get up to speed. This organizing role of thumb holds no matter who you are. Even if you’re directly affected by some forms of injustice, there are areas where you may not have the firsthand knowledge and experience that前线 organizers already do daily, with seasoned peers, or disabled in a world filled with barriers to access. We all have a different array of privileges that affect what is like to move through the world and what opportunities are (or aren’t) available to us. Many of us are even aware of our privileges. We need to be ready to learn.

### What’s been the best way to get involved in the movement? — and, ideally, dismantle the routine politics in the White House? The answer is really up to you.

For starters, it helps to recognize that the movement isn’t really a single movement at all: it is a kaleidoscope of many different organizations, movements, small groups, and individuals. Some focus on specific issues, like immigrant rights, racial justice, or gun control; others define their work through a strategic approach: direct action or Campaign-oriented advocacy; others have a broad Mandate established by the needs of their local community.

While it might seem simpler or more straightforward if there were a single organization, or set of leaders at the helm of the resistance, the sprawling tangle of our movements is actually a serious strength. It allows for many forms of leadership, diverse political space for many perspectives, and provides an incredible array of problem-solving for action.

It also translates into many points of entry — opportunities to get involved and make an impact — if you know how to find them.

First, and most importantly, decide how involved you want to be and what kind of activism fits your interests, skills, and available time. Are you motivated to work on a particular issue or issue area? Do you want to involve a more rightist or a climate change, or are you most interested in connecting with people in your community? Do you want to volunteer to take on specific issues, like phone-bank- ing, or are you interested in playing a bigger role in planning and executing actions or ongoing campaigns?

If you’re not sure, that’s okay — just keep that question in mind as you move on to the crucial second step: research. Set aside some dedicated time for this step. You’ll likely get more clarity on how you want to contribute as you delve deeply into different approaches.

You’ll probably want to start with internet research, digging around to see what groups already exist in your vicinity or the issue area you want to focus on.

Are there local affiliates of national progressive groups like Indivisible, the ACLU’s People Power Network, 350.org, Swing Left, NARAL, Sister District, or the Democracies of Action? Are any other groups in your community taking up similar work? What kind of work do they do? Do they have regular meetings that

### Find your Place in the Movement

Not sure which is the best way to get involved in the movement to resist — and, ideally, dismantle the routine politics in the White House? The answer is really up to you.

One easy way to find a way into one of them is to ‘like’ them on Facebook, and see if they’ll have the group doors — talk to your friends, and see if they’ll go to a meeting with you.

Gaining to a group’s meeting is the best way to get a feel for who they are, how they think, and whether they might be a good fit for you. If you’ve never in a small group, there might be that they’ll have the group doors open to welcome someone new.

If you can’t find a good fit, why not start your own group? Part of the power of grassroots organizing is You don’t have to wait for someone’s permission; or initiation to start taking action — you can find a few friends and start getting something going on your own. A group doesn’t need to be big to make a difference. A small collective that meets around a kitchen table can have real impact if it takes focused and strategic action over time.

There are likely to be seasoned organizers in your community who can teach you about how to mobilize small, builds connections, and win. Seek them out and learn from them. You may find ways to collaborate and coordinate, and you might be surprised that you’re complementing rather than duplicating or impeding work they’re already doing. If they are more directly impacted by the issue at hand than your group is — say, they’re a longstanding immigrant rights group, and your new group is focusing on ways to be allies — listen hard to their perspective and ask other than exactly the same (may be most helpful).

Whether you join an already existing group or start something on your own, there are lots of resources available to help you plan and execute an active strategy. This guide lists a number of books and actions that can get you started, and some tips on how to approach them. We can help you and your group learn the nuts and bolts of strategic planning, nonviolent direct action, or whatever it is you want to learn.
Preaching to the choir gets us nowhere. But reaching out to potential allies to encourage them to take political action, whether at the ballot box or in the streets? That changes everything — making a more cohesive movement out of the marginalized majorities that we are.

Case in point: Remember Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s primary win? The press called it an upset, a surprising win. Just look at what the poll numbers were! They asked about it, Ocasio-Cortez responded that the win wasn’t so surprising at all. Pols, she said, with ugly pointed out, usually measure systems who are “likely” to turn out. Her approach? To reach out to voters who don’t normally turn out.

The notion that identity politics divides us is equality hinged on identity — from the Civil Rights movement to the Women’s movement to the Land Peasants’ movement to the 2017 Women’s March. Decentralized protests have been happening across the United States. The media generally suck at covering any kind of political action, whether electoral or political action, whether grassroots movements or large dramatic events. They unde:

1. Public speeches
2. Letters of opposition or support
3. Declarations by organizations and institutions
4. Signed public statements
5. Group or mass petitions

Communications with a Wider Audience

6. Stickers, caricatures, and symbols
7. Banners, posters, and displayed communications
8. Leaflets, pamphlets, and books
9. Newspapers and journals
10. Records, radio, and television
11. Skypeing and e-mailing

Group Representations

12. Depositions
13. Mock awards
14. Group lobbying
15. Picketing

Symbolic Public Acts

16. Displays of flags and symbolic colors
17. Wearing of symbols
18. Prayer and worship
19. Delivering symbolic objects
20. Protest disorders
21. Destruction of own property
22. Symbolic lights
23. Paint as protest

Pressures on Individuals

24. “Hunting” officials
25. Taunting officials
26. Vigils

Drama and Music

27. Humorous skits and pranks
28. Performances of plays and music
29. Singing

Looking for ideas to keep your actions lively, engaging, and full of impact? Gene Sharp, an influential and highly regarded scholar of collective action and popular movements, drafted a famous list of 198 methods of nonviolent protest and persuasion back in 1973. This selection highlights some of the most relevant options for this moment — use it to spark your imagination as you organize.

Formal Statements

1. Public speeches
2. Letters of opposition or support
3. Declarations by organizations and institutions
4. Signed public statements
5. Group or mass petitions

Understanding the importance of pulling out from, rather than pushing into, different pillars of support

It is critical for a nonviolent movement to find ways to influence the behavior of the people within various pillars of support, by:

1. Eroding their loyalty to your opponent(s)
2. Persuading them to deny their skills and knowledge, material resources, and time to your opponent(s)

When a nonviolent movement is successful at influencing a particular pillar, members of that pillar will find ways to withdraw their support from your opponent and his/her supporters, by openly or subtly disobeying orders, by ignoring orders altogether, or by carrying orders out slowly, inefficiently and/or incompletely. Members of some pillars may also begin to openly or subtly support your movement as well.

If the people do not obey, the ruler cannot rule. Strategies for nonviolent struggle are based upon this insight.

**Act Like The Majority We Already Are**

**Focus On The Pillars Of Support**

**PRINCIPLES OF EMERGENT STRATEGY**

by Adrienne maree brown

In grassroots organizing, it matters not just what we build, but how we build. When faced with the urgent need to support an unfolding reality, like the Trump presidency, we can be tempting to take shortcuts, to rush into responding in emergency mode. This won’t accept him alone more brown’s approach 2017 book, **Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change in a Complex World**. Notice us as we reflect deeply on the Consequences of the Ways of Organizing, and the power of principled connection and action. The crisis is everywhere, massive massive massive. We are small.

But emergent notices the way small actions and connections create complex systems, patterns that become ecosystems and associations. Emergence is our inheritance as a planet this universe: it is how we change. Emergent strategy is how we intentionally change it ways that grow our capacity to embody the just and liberties worlds long for.

In the study and practice of emergent strategy, there are core principles that have emerged and that guide us in learning and using this idea any method in the world. I gather them here with the expectation that they will grow.

Small is good, small is all. (The ledge is a reflection of the small). Change is constant. (Be like water). There is always enough time for the right work. There is a conversation in the room that only these people at this moment can have. Find it. Never a failure, always a lesson. Trust the People. (If you trust the people, they become trustworthy). Move at the speed of trust. Focus on critical connections more than critical mass — build the resilience by building the relationships. Less prep, more presence. What you pay attention to grows.

**METHODS OF NONVIOLENT PROTEST AND PERSUASION**

By Gene Sharp

- Vigils
- Demonstrations
- Formal Statements
In the first two years of Donald Trump’s presidency, grassroots organizers held a staggering 25,000 protests — some huge, some small — all around the country. The news was a bed of nails: petty governance and terrible policies, but protests should be more than a way to vent outrage; they should fit into a larger strategic plan.

Many organizers have planned at least different kinds of actions and campaigns as long-time movement trainer and strategist Lisa Fitzharris. A well-executed protest action should not only communicate a strong message and place pressure on a target, it should be designed as part of a longer-term strategy to — whatever winning means in context — and to build the power and scope of a movement. This list of questions, compiled by Fitzharris, are designed to help you think through not only how to plan a protest, but how to think of each action as a step in a larger plan to achieve your goals.

Many elements go into making your action successful. Take the time at the front end to be clear, really clear, about what you are trying to do and why: It can make all the difference.

If your plans are good, if you have a realistic assessment of your numbers and your resources, and if the people working on it are accountable, the only thing to be worried about is the weather. And this is no small matter. Michigan is not going to quickly move people to stronger actions. There are a few things to consider in choosing an action site?

- What are your short-term demands? What are your long-term demands? How can you escalate if they’re not met?

- Timing and Political Climate
  How soon do you need to take action? Why now? Is there a more strategic day? What makes that day special? Is it special only to your organization or movement? Is it a culturally Important date? What is the political climate? What has happened recently? How is your campaign relevant to People in your city/county/state/country? How is it compelling and timely? Have you considered a "network of actions" to roll out the escalation to create a sense of urgency for your target?

- How soon do you need to take action?
  What stage is your campaign in? What story are you trying to tell? What compelling image or symbols can you use to simplify and streamline your message to the audience? Could you exploit your opponent’s symbols or slogans against them?

- Who are the stakeholders in the fight, and who are your allies?
  Do your actions align with one another?
  How do you or your group fit into or complement them?

- What is your intention? What is your vision for the future? How do you define “winning”?
  What stage is your campaign on? Do you need to escalate, draw attention, educate the media? What story are you trying to tell? What is your strategy to win? Are other groups or organizations using different strategies? How do you or your group fit into or complement them?

- Action Goals (Public)
  What are you trying to achieve by taking action at this point? To gain leverage for negotiation? Sound the general alarm? Prevent further harm from occurring? Does this action fit into a larger campaign or more long-term strategy?

- What symbols can you use to simplify and streamline your message to the audience? Could you exploit your opponent’s symbols or slogans against them?

- What compelling image or symbols can you use to simplify and streamline your message to the audience? Could you exploit your opponent’s symbols or slogans against them?

- Who are the decision-makers as well as secondary or tertiary targets — the people who can influence the primary decision-maker? Who is the target of the action? What do you want them to do?

- Outreach/Mobilization
  How can you enlist non-traditional communities for this action? Will you action build to foster new relationships and community support for your campaign? Will the tactics you’ve chosen alienate or interest the general public?

- Processions
  30. Marches
  31. Parades
  32. Religious processions
  33. Motorcades

- What does the action scenario communicate your message without words? A picture tells the story?
  Is the action symbolic or descriptive? Is it public or secret?

- What do you want to achieve for the action? Where will they come from?
  How will you change the plan if you don’t have enough people?

- What is the problem, and what are you trying to accomplish?
  Who is your target — the person or institution who has the power to decide?

- What is your message? Can it be summed up in a slogan or soundbite?
  Do the message and target fit together in a way that is easily understandable?

- How does your action site relate to your target? Is it one and the same? If you are considering multiple action sites, which one best communicates your message and will best accommodate your action? Role things to consider in choosing an action site are size, visibility, access to roads, cell service, fences, security, sidewalks.

- How should you present your message to the audience?
  What story are you trying to tell? What compelling image or symbols can you use to simplify and streamline your message to the audience? Could you exploit your opponent’s symbols or slogans against them?

- How are you trying to achieve by taking action at this point? To gain leverage for negotiation? Sound the general alarm? Prevent further harm from occurring? Does this action fit into a larger campaign or more long-term strategy?

- Action Goals (Private)
  Possibilities include: Build the movement. Inspire others by showing them that individuals can make a difference. Empower yourself and your friends. Boost morale.

- Political leverage
  Who are the decision-makers as well as secondary or tertiary targets — the people who can influence the primary decision-maker? Who is the target of the action? What do you want them to do?

- How do you define “winning”?
  What stage is your campaign on? Do you need to escalate, draw attention, educate the media? What story are you trying to tell? What is your strategy to win? Are other groups or organizations using different strategies? How do you or your group fit into or complement them?

- How do you feel about the weather?
  Are you asking people to do something on a target. It can be very important to win(ning) higher level targets.

- What are you trying to achieve by taking action at this point? To gain leverage for negotiation? Sound the general alarm? Prevent further harm from occurring? Does this action fit into a larger campaign or more long-term strategy?

- Processions
  30. Marches
  31. Parades
  32. Religious processions
  33. Motorcades

- What are your short-term demands? What are your long-term demands? How can you escalate if they’re not met?

- Timing and Political Climate
  How soon do you need to take action? Why now? Is there a more strategic day? What makes that day special? Is it special only to your organization or movement? Is it a culturally Important date? What is the political climate? What has happened recently? How is your campaign relevant to People in your city/county/state/country? How is it compelling and timely? Have you considered a “network of actions” to roll out the escalation to create a sense of urgency for your target?

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