Activist Rhetoric

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Activism is a vibrant and vital component of public involvement in social issues. Through demonstration, campaigning, marketing, lobbying, confrontation, and action activists seek to bring about social change by directly confronting issues they perceive to be socially and environmentally problematic. In this course we will exam the role of activists in society while considering how deeply rhetorical actions shape our environment, examining ways to bring about social change through rhetorical action, and working through the complex permutations of audience response to activist rhetoric.

Requirements

Students will be tasked with reading and responding to numerous accounts of activism and policy making. Each reading will be accompanied by a written précis, students will develop an annotated bibliography of source material related to personal and political interests, and a journal-quality paper (approximately 9,000 words), along with identification of 2-3 journals to which the paper could potentially be submitted, will be developed. Face-to-face class times will consist of discussions of readings and consideration of various examples of activism (and responses to that activism).

Readings

Potential Books


Articles and Essays


**Other articles to be decided**