

Change agency

Teaching learning activities

Teaching Social Change: The Practical Activism Assignment

Objectives for this activity for students include: (1) to understand how inequities, power, and privilege shape social institutions; (2) to synthesize and apply diverse theoretical concepts to real-world situations to bring about practical social change; and (3) to learn the value of collective action in facilitating sustainable change

In the Practical Activism Assignment, students spend eight weeks working together as a class to imagine and facilitate social change. Through a collaborative process, students select a social institution and identify one or more problems affecting the well-being of its community members. Using course concepts, students develop an action plan that describes why they selected their institution and how they will work to create socially-just change for members of the community it serves. As part of this collaboration, students decide on an agreement model (consensus, majority vote, etc.) to determine how they select the institution and action. Once class members have agreed on an institution and plan for action, they present their proposal to the instructor prior to engaging in social change. Students are assessed on how well their action plan aligns with course material and themes, and how effectively their actions facilitate social change. As a result of the assignment, students successfully lobbied their school administration for the establishment of a [Student Diversity Center](#) and [Diversity Action Plan](#), among other outcomes

Information is derived from: <https://www.actionteaching.org/award/practical-activism>

For more information and teaching activities: <https://www.actionteaching.org/>

2 Arts-based methods for transformative engagement toolkit

<https://www.sustainableplaceshaping.net/arts-based-toolkit/>

3 Handbook of WISE interventions

<https://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Wise-Interventions-Social-Psychology/dp/1462543839#:~:text=Precise%20shifts%20in%20the%20ways,social%2Dpsychological%20processes%20on%20behavior.>