

How to plan a protest

By Wikihow, adapted by Newsela staff on 05.18.18

Word Count **984**

Level **500L**



Image 1. High school students protest during a rally calling for anti-gun laws on Friday April 20, 2018, in Washington Square Park, New York. Protests were held across the country that day, on the 19th anniversary of the Columbine High School shooting. Photo by AP/Bebeto Matthews.

When you feel strongly about something, a protest is one way to make your voice heard. A protest is when people gather together. They speak out against something they do not agree with. Everyone has the right to protest. It is a powerful way to make a difference in the world.

Here are the steps to follow if you want to plan your own protest.

Part One: Organizing The Protest

Set A Goal

Protests are a way to let other people know about an issue. They can also put pressure on government leaders to make a change. Think about the goal of your protest. Ask yourself, who is your audience? Who are you trying to send a message to?

Here is an example. Say there is a chicken farm in your town. You learn the chickens are treated very badly there. You decided to protest. Your goal is to get people to stop buying eggs from this

farm. So your audience is the public, the people who shop in your town.

Here is another example. Say you are protesting a new law. You think the law is very unfair. Your goal is to change the law. And your audience is government leaders, the people who can change it.

Pick The Place

Find a location that is easy to reach. You may also want to pick a spot that means something to your group. It can be the sidewalk in front of a business, a street corner or a park. Or, it could be a big government building or a historic site. The site must be a public place, though. If it is owned by a person or business, protesting there will be against the law.



Pick The Time

Choose the right time to have your protest. The right time depends on what you are protesting. Maybe you want to protest a company. It makes sense to do it during business hours. That is when the company's president will probably be there.

Or, your goal may be to get as many people together to protest as possible. Then you might want to protest on a weekend. More people will be free to join.

Get A Permit

Find out if you need permission to protest. In some cities, you need permission. This is called a permit. Each city has its own laws about protests. The permit may say how many people are allowed at one protest. It may also set rules for where protests can happen.

Plan The Details

It's important to have a plan for how your protest will go. First, do some research. Read about successful protests from the past. Then decide what you want for your protest. You may ask community leaders to make speeches. You can pick someone to lead protest chants. You may want to plan a march from one place to another, too. Marching is a popular form of protest.

Let People Know

It is important to share the details of your protest. Post information on social media. Make flyers and put them up around town. Call local newspapers and radio stations, too. Ask them to share information about the protest. Many more people will hear about it this way.

Part Two: Getting Ready To Protest

Bring Protest Materials

Make posters and fliers to help spread your message. Hand them out at the protest. Put the name of your group and contact information on these materials. This will help people find more information after the protest is over.

Quiz

1 Read the paragraph from the section "Be Prepared."

Pack a backpack with supplies. Bottled water and snacks are good to have in case the protest is long. Pack your protest permit if you have one.

Which question is answered in this paragraph?

- (A) How do you spread the message about your protest?
- (B) What types of problems will you face when you have a protest?
- (C) Why should you dress comfortably at a protest?
- (D) What types of things should you have with you at a protest?

2 Read the section "Review Your Protest."

Select the sentence that BEST explains WHY you should feel good about yourself after your protest.

- (A) After the protest ends, think about how it went.
- (B) Maybe your protest did not bring about change right away.
- (C) One protest cannot change everything all at once.
- (D) You stood up for your right to be heard!

3 Which section from the article gives information about how to decide what you will protest?

- (A) "Set A Goal"
- (B) "Pick The Place"
- (C) "Pick The Time"
- (D) "Get A Permit"

4 What information will the reader find in the introduction [paragraphs 1-2]?

- (A) an explanation of how to plan a good protest
- (B) an explanation of why protests are important
- (C) a description of what people like to protest
- (D) a description of the most famous protesters