

THE CELAC STUDENT VOICE

Good and Bad Activism

by Xinghui Pan (Pam)



Is activism a good thing or bad thing? There are many different types of activism in the world: internet activism, environmental activism, and economic activism, etc. However, a proper activism is important, and it can change the existing social system and make it more perfect.

Good activism can be a person taking actions to get the benefits he or she deserves. For example, the incident of police law enforcement kneeling on and killing George Floyd reported in the news. It caused Americans to rally the slogan of "Black Lives Matter" in solidarity with the George Floyd and other African-Americans who have died similarly. In addition, due to the influence of coronavirus, during the daytime parade, the organizers also demanded that demonstrators wear masks and maintain social distance to control the spread of coronavirus.

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However, bad activism caused many negative effects. For instance, the riots caused by these protests. Some people smashed the glass of the shops, robbed the contents, and set them on fire. These actions cause social unrest, and people suffer heavy losses. Excessive activism and activism that change the original purpose are terrible.

Good activism is necessary, and it promotes the development of society and makes it better. Also, both sides of activism can change society. Everyone needs to pay attention so that people will be more comfortable in a stable society.

The Environmental Activist

by Xiangzhou Yang (Harvey)

What is an environmental activist? The environment is no longer simply the natural environment in which people live; it can be our living environment, work environment, psychological environment, communication environment and so on. Therefore, the living space of human beings and the various natural factors which can directly or indirectly affect human life and development are called the environment. How to deal with environmental problems of people's creation is the real embodiment of humanity.

With the development of human beings, the responsibilities of the global citizenship has become a hot topic. In the past, people only focused on the goal of development and ignored the damage to the environment. As a result, the resources of earth are becoming more and more scarce. Even some species have become extinct due to human development. Likewise, global citizenship has been a very common concept referring to a citizen who cares not only about their city and country, but also about the rest of the world. Environmental activists are often citizens of the world. They always regard environmental protection as their responsibility and take part in all kinds of environmental protection activities by setting an example. They insist on doing even a little thing. They always understand that as long as each person contributes a little more to the environment, there will be great power to solve the problems created by more people.

As mentioned earlier, the environment is not only the environment which people are living, but also the environment of interpersonal communication of people's daily life. Therefore, we can apply the concept of the 'environmental activist' to other contexts. A good communicative environment is more important than a good person. We use communication to address the problems we face. Especially for some business people, the communicative environment is relatively changeable, such as the office, road, car, conference room, airport, factory and many other uncertain occasions; as a result, in this changeable environment, the quality requirement of communication is very high. Creating the better communicative environment can help improve problem solving efficiency significantly. Why are people not only comfortable but also productive when interacting with successful business people? Because they are environmental activists, they know how to improve communication by creating a comfortable environment. They take care of your emotions by trying to figure out what kind of communication is best for you. Furthermore, this group is always the embodiment of charismatic leadership. They will be more and more successful in their developments.

Finally, the individual is an important part of an organization. As a result, the construction of a better psychological environment is crucial to individuals. A good environmental activist will not go out of their way for a long time. They adjust their mindset, making themselves face the problem with a positive attitude because they know that the psychological environment is people's last line of defense. Once the last line is destroyed, people will lose confidence; as a result, they will lose everything. Therefore, trust yourself first, and you can do what you should do. Only in this way can you trust others and achieve goals together—to achieve a true sense of win-win.

Becoming a true environmental activist is not an easy task. Each of us idealizes our own definition and imagines ourselves to be a true activist. In fact, it isn't. Only to act out the ideal, accumulated over a long period of time, can we call ourselves true activists.

Activism Can Assert Our Rights

by Yanxu Chen (Apple)

Most of us already know our rights. How to assert our rights becomes essential in our daily life. Therefore, activism is one popular pattern to maintain our rights. Activism is doing something to support our rights. I divide activism into 3 manners to explain how it works; the 3 manners are personal, political and cultural activism.

First, personal activism reflects our opinion or viewpoint. If I am in favor of feminism, I might publish my viewpoint in public and give out leaflets in the main road of my city. Also, our personal opinion can be asserted in a presidential election. If I support Trump as the best American president and I can vote, I will vote for him and attend rallies for him. What's more, we might sustain some new things. If I do not think police have the right to shoot people, I might protest with others, and I will protest for the death of victims of the police. Therefore, personal activism is working for what we personally support.

Secondly, political activism is for opposing or supporting some politician or political event. If I oppose Trump as the next American president, I will walk in the street and protest with some slogans. Moreover, political activism can also mean spreading new political thought; for example, the 1919 New Culture Movement in China. Students and intellectuals protested in the street and spread their thought. In addition, political activism can spread new policies and resolve some issues. Giuseppe Mazzini spread new policies which he created to unify a disjointed Italy. So, political activism is spreading political ideas in the public.

Finally, cultural activism spreads a new culture. For example, we can find this in gender when we started to respect the culture and lifestyles of gender non-conformers and trans people. Furthermore, people of the same gender can marry legally because those people should be held equally in esteem. Also, cultural activism is propagandizing your culture. If you think you are right, you can propagandize your culture in public and you can protest, like doing hunger strikes for it.

Activism is an important tool to assert our rights and our responsibilities. We can use the tool for our opinion, politics we support, and our culture. It is useful most of the time. I think in the future, I will assert for myself and encourage more people to assert themselves.



#BLACK LIVES MATTER AROUND THE WORLD



MEXICO



TAIWAN



AUSTRALIA



GHANA



JAPAN



GERMANY

[#blacklivesmatter](https://www.instagram.com/blacklivesmatter)



Apple

My name is Yanxu, you also can call me Apple. Before I became a Lobo, I studied Financial Management in BITZH. My hobby is being a photographer and traveling the world. If you want to know more about taking pictures and you want to be a photographer in the future, or you like taking pictures, please read my essay and have a contact with me.



Harvey

My name is Xiangzhou Yang; you can call me Harvey. I come from the hometown of Pu 'er tea located north in China. I was an international trading company manager before I came to UNM. I am going to apply to the MIS and Finance at UNM. I like to play basketball and take pictures in my leisure time.



Pam

My name is Pam. I come from China. My hobby is painting.