

activist /ăk'tə-vĭst/

noun

1. A proponent or practitioner of activism.
"political activists."
2. One who is aggressively active on behalf of a cause.
Similar: [militant](#)
3. One who is [politically active](#) in the role of a [citizen](#); especially, one who [campaigns](#) for [change](#).

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, 5th Edition

On activists and activism:

- An activist is anyone who demands something to change and invests his time and effort into driving or pushing others to drive this change.
- [EcoCation](#)
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From Wikipedia:

Activism consists of efforts to promote, impede, direct or intervene in social, political, economic or environmental reform with the desire to make [changes in society](#) toward a perceived [common good](#). Forms of activism range from [mandate](#) building in a community (including writing letters to newspapers), petitioning [elected officials](#), running or contributing to a political campaign, preferential [patronage](#) (or [boycott](#)) of businesses, and demonstrative forms of activism like rallies, street marches, [strikes](#), [sit-ins](#), or [hunger strikes](#).

from [How To Become an Activist](#):

- Activism and Movements Defined
- What is an organizing model? An organizing model is **a way of collaborating in large groups of people**. It is a framework based on other successful campaigns. You can use these templates to better organize your group. The better you are organized, the more impact you will make. Many different organizing models exist. Some are bottom-up (decentralised), others are more

hierarchical (centralised). Some frameworks work better for groups with paid staff, others work better for groups with only volunteers.

- **Understanding Activism**

Activism Defined

Activism is defined as influencing a person or group toward changing their awareness of and behavior about an issue. Volunteering is like activism but focuses on helping people rather than changing behavior. An activist might try to change littering laws while a volunteer clears litter from the community. Both are essential ways to make the world a better place.

Movements Defined

Movements are defined as larger-scale efforts that focus on societal issues. They are often composed of organizations and individuals working towards a common goal, such as civil rights, environmental justice, or feminism. Movements can span decades, evolving in response to changing social and political landscapes.

Grassroots Defined

Grassroots movements are characterized by a bottom-up approach. Unlike top-down initiatives often driven by established political entities or organizations, grassroots organizing relies on individuals working at a community level. These movements often begin with people seeking to change something that impacts their lives. This collective effort builds momentum around the cause. Because of the local focus, grassroots movements can create lasting change.

- [Activist Handbook: Campaigning guides for activists](#)