

STUDENTS ON STRIKE!

Holding Institutions to Account

TEACHER GUIDE

Explore the legacy of student activism at San Francisco State in *Students on Strike!: Holding Institutions to Account*. This teacher guide will help you prepare for your students' visit. Teachers are also welcome to visit OMCA for a free planning visit.

EXHIBITION CONTENT

From the fight for Ethnic Studies programs to anti-war protests, Bay Area students have a long legacy of campus activism. School administrators have sometimes responded to historical and contemporary protests by calling in police officers or by creating new policies restricting students' use of common space.

During the 1968–1969 San Francisco State College strike, students presented school administrators with a list of demands. Grievances centered around College admittance practices and a Eurocentric curriculum that both largely excluded people of color. Met with repeated police violence, the extraordinary five-month strike eventually won the establishment of the first Department of Black Studies, the first School of Ethnic Studies in the nation, and admissions practices that increased student diversity. These unprecedented wins served as models for changes to education nationwide.

Today, students continue to make public demands of their schools, often asking these institutions to live up to stated values. Here, we explore the similarities and differences between a historical and a contemporary student movement at San Francisco State.

Exhibition highlights include:

- Posters from the 1968–1969 San Francisco State College strike
- *Oakland Tribune* photographs from the 1968–1969 student strike and the violent police response
- Posters from San Francisco State University students protesting Israel's war on Gaza

The Student Conversation Guide also includes suggestions for extending student exploration beyond *Students on Strike!: Holding Institutions to Account*, including the *Black Power* exhibit in the History Gallery and the *Radical Acts* poster wall in the Art Gallery (see last page for gallery maps identifying these exhibit locations).

KEY EXHIBIT MESSAGES

- Student activism on college campuses often pushes institutions of higher learning to refine and evolve their values.
- Student activism on college campuses has often been, and continues to be, met with physical and political violence because the demands of mass mobilizations of students disrupt the status quo.

UNDERSTANDING THE STUDENT CONVERSATION GUIDE

This guide:

- Helps teachers, chaperones and students better manage their self-guided visit to *Students on Strike*.
- Promotes student-driven inquiry. Students are prompted to consider particular topics/themes, but are given the opportunity to choose what to focus on within the exhibition.
- Encourages student conversation and reflection about these topics to help students consider and extend their experience in the exhibition.

FACILITATION SUGGESTIONS

- Bring enough printed copies of the student guide, writing surfaces and pencils for each student. The student guide is designed for 8.5" x 11" paper. A limited number of printed student guides will be available at OMCA's School Group Entrance. No pens are allowed in the galleries.
- Allow students to work in pairs or small groups. If any student(s) seems to be struggling with the prompts, check in with them and encourage them to work with a peer to solve any challenges.
- Create a safe space for dialogue. We encourage students to work with a partner, however, participation in dialogue should be voluntary. Encourage students to participate however they're comfortable.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The following resources may help you better prepare to facilitate your students' experience, or provide student learning opportunities before or after your visit:

- [“The Longest Student Strike in History” video](#) from PBS's *Roots of Resistance*, about the 1968–1969 San Francisco State College strike (10 minutes).
- [SF State College Strike online collection](#), including images of publications, flyers, scrapbooks, student newspapers, and other documents.

- [Teaching and Learning About the Pro-Palestinian Student Protests on College Campuses](#), a lesson plan from *The New York Times*. You may wish to substitute articles and opinion pieces from additional sources, such as [student newspapers](#).
- [Daily News Lesson: Trump admin targets Palestinian student who organized on-campus protests of Gaza war](#), from PBS News Hour Classroom.
- [Current Events: Freedom of Speech and Peaceful Assembly on College Campuses resources](#) from the Civics Learning Project.
- [My School My Rights website](#) from the ACLU, with information about rights for public school students in California, including [student protests and political speech](#).
- [Four Points discussion framework](#) from the Democratic Knowledge Project, to help students discuss sensitive topics in current events.
- [Three Kinds of Citizens: What does it mean to be civically engaged?](#) resource from the Integrated Action Civics Project.

VOCABULARY

activism

citizen

civic engagement

divest

disclose

Eurocentric

free speech

open bargaining

protest

revolution

social movement

strike

BEYOND THE EXHIBIT

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