Session 5: Civil Rights Groups Passing Laws and Regulations To Get Things Changed

Our Common History: Fighting for the Rights of People

https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/civil-rights/
TACTICS

Tactics are activities that groups use to get things changed.

- Some tactics use the courts.
- Some tactics focus on laws and politics.
- Some tactics use things like protests and demonstrations. That is called direct action.

https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/civil-rights/
Passing laws and regulations to make change

The first law against discrimination was the Civil Rights Act of 1886. It said that all people born in the United states were citizens regardless of race.

https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/civil-rights/
Passing laws and regulations to make change

The 15th Amendment of the Constitution gave black people the right to vote.

https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/civil-rights/
Passing laws and regulations to make change

Another important law is Executive Order 8802. It said that the defense industry could not discriminate.

https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/civil-rights/
Passing laws and regulations to make change

The LGBTQ+ Movement worked to get LGBTQ+ people elected. It advocated with government officials to change policies. Members of the LGBTQ+ Movement used “zaps” to put government officials on the spot.

https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/civil-rights/
Passing laws and regulations to make change

Zaps were used to embarrass people and put them on the spot. A famous Zap happened when LGBTQ+ activists threw a pie in the face of Anita Bryant because she led an anti-gay campaign.

https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/civil-rights/
Passing laws and regulations to make change

The Self-Advocacy Movement used political activism to fight segregation. In Nebraska, a boy named Johnathan Allen lived in an institution. He had bruises that no one could explain.

https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/civil-rights/
Passing laws and regulations to make change

Members of Project 2 met with Senator Vard Johnson. He asked them to go with him on an unannounced tour of the institution. After that, the Senator changed his mind about institutions.

https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/civil-rights/
Passing laws and regulations to make change

As self-advocates have focused on voting and other civil rights. They spoke out about how the justice system treats people with disabilities.

https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/civil-rights/
Passing laws and regulations to make change

In 2015, self-advocates formed the Ethan Saylor Alliance for Self-Advocates as Educators. Ethan Saylor died when he was dealing with the police.

https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/civil-rights/
Members of the self-advocacy movement worked hard to help pass the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In 1990, the ADA was passed. It is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability.

https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/civil-rights/