Session 6: Civil Rights Groups Taking Direct Action To Get Things Changed

Our Common History: Fighting for the Rights of People

https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/civil-rights/
African American Civil Rights Movement

LGBTQ+ Civil Rights Movement

Self-Advocacy Civil Rights Movement

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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.

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Marches, Protests, and Demonstrations

The African-American Civil Rights Movement had many marches and protests. They had bus boycotts in Baton Rouge and Montgomery.

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Marches, Protests, and Demonstrations

Students in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee or SNCC, held sit-ins in restaurants. One famous sit-in was at Woolworths in North Carolina.

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Marches, Protests, and Demonstrations

SNCC also had Freedom Rides across the south. They did this to stop segregation on Trailways and Greyhound buses. Several students were beaten during the Freedom Rides.

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Marches, Protests, and Demonstrations

One of the students was John Lewis. After the Freedom rides he became a Congressman for Georgia.
Marches, Protests, and Demonstrations

John Lewis was one of the people who marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in 1965 where the demonstrators were met with violence committed on them by police. This was known as Bloody Sunday.

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Marches, Protests, and Demonstrations

The LGBTQ Movement used protests in the 1960s. In 1964, they demonstrated at a military draft center. In 1965, they had another protest at the White House.

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Marches, Protests, and Demonstrations

The LGBTQ Movement also used boycotting to change practice and policy. They started The Day of Silence as a way to show the silence experienced by gays and lesbians each day. The Day of Silence has happened every year for 22 years.

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Marches, Protests, and Demonstrations

One of the most well-known protests of the LGBTQ Movement happened at the Stonewall Inn. Police raided this bar on June 28, 1969. The people in the bar fought back.

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Marches, Protests, and Demonstrations

They threw things at police officers. This turned into a riot. After the Stonewall Riots, more LGBTQ protest groups started to speak out across the country.

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Marches, Protests, and Demonstrations

The LGBTQ Movement has had several marches throughout its history. The First National March on D.C. for Gay and Lesbian Rights happened in 1979. 100,000 people attended the march in D.C.
Marches, Protests, and Demonstrations

In 1987, the Second National March on D.C. for Gay and Lesbian Rights occurred. At that march 64 people were arrested for demonstrating.

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Passing laws and regulations to make change

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.

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Marches, Protests, and Demonstrations

A group of 475 people with disabilities went to Congress to protest delays in passing the ADA.

They got out of their wheelchairs and crawled up the stairs.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVqWa3Uofgc

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Marches, Protests, and Demonstrations

In 1990, 2,000 people with disabilities came to Washington to watch President Bush sign the ADA. The first Disability Pride Parade was in 1990.

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Marches, Protests, and Demonstrations

In June of 2017, Congress tried to pass a new bill that would cut Medicaid services. Members of ADAPT and other self-advocates went to Senator Mitch McConnell’s office to protest the bill. Sixty protesters attended the event and 43 people were arrested.

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