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ASSIGNMENT - Social Movement Presentation

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ASSIGNMENT

Social Movement Presentation

For this assignment, you will be working in groups of up to 3 people to:

- research a social movement, past or present, working for change on an issue of interest to you,
- analyze the movement from a political process theoretical framework, and
- present an overview of the movement to the class in the form of an interactive timeline using Timeline JS.

Key questions that emerge from political process theory that you should answer in your research and presentation to the class are the following.

(Note that not all of these questions have answers that would correspond to a specific date; in those cases, find places in your timeline most suitable for including this kind of information.)

- What problem, grievance, or opportunity served as a catalyst for the movement to form?
- Why is this a significant cause worthy of attention (e.g., share statistics that show us the scope of the issue, stories that humanize those statistics, and information about which groups of people are most affected)?
- Who are the movements leaders, and how is the movement structured/organized?
- How do members of the movement mobilize? What strategies have they used to further their cause and secure the necessary resources to sustain themselves over the long term?
- What have been some of the more significant or defining moments (e.g., key successes and setbacks) in the movement's history?
- What opposition has the movement faced and why?
- What work remains to be done? And what does this movement or organization plan to do about that work that remains to be done?

Presentations are evaluated based on the following:

- Presentation responds to the questions asked in this assignment (30 points).
- Creativity, clarity, quality, and use of time in presentation's delivery (20 points).
- Quality of sources used to compile information, and correct (APA or MLA) citations in your presentation (students must draw from at least 4 reputable sources that are properly cited throughout the presentation) (20 points).
- Steps leading to final project (proposal, annotated bibliography, and draft presentation—10 points each) (30 points).

The project is scaffolded so that students submit consecutive steps over the final 4–6 weeks of a term.

Step 1: Come to class with a typed summary of the following: 1) an idea for a social movement of interest to you, 2) citations for two sources about this movement, 3) short answers to the following questions: What problem or opportunity does this movement seek to address? Why is this an important cause and worth supporting? What opposition does/has the movement face(d) and why? 4) Whether you prefer to work alone or in a group (and if in a group, whether with anyone or with specific people).

Step 2: Annotated bibliography with four sources per group is due, along with updated and expanded responses to each of the questions posed in the assignment.

Step 3: Full draft of Timeline and script due.

Step 4: Individual meetings with me to discuss revisions.

Step 5: Final timelines are due and these are presented to the class.

EXAMPLES OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS TO CHOOSE FROM

Note that the list below contains just some examples of movements students have studied for this assignment, but students are encouraged to select a movement (past or present) that is of particular interest to them. In addition to movements being acceptable from any time in history, they can be from any part of the world. For students who are from outside of the United States, highlighting a movement from their own home country has been particularly of interesting to peers due to the opportunity it provides to learn something about a movement they may not have heard about before. If students would like to study something not listed below, they just need to get approval first to make sure that what they're planning to research qualifies as a social movement.

- The Dreamer Movement
- Zapatista Movement
- Black Lives Matter
- American Indian Movement
- Marriage Equality
- Occupy Wall Street
- Anti-Apartheid movement in South Africa
- #MeToo
- Reproductive rights movement
- Montgomery Bus Boycott
- March for Our Lives