

YOUR ROAD MAP CHEAT SHEET TO TEEN EMPOWERMENT

*courtesy of Wake, Rise, Resist: The Progressive Teen's Guide to Fighting Tyrants and A*holes (on Amazon, or ask your local bookstore!)*

How can I get started with **activism**?

We call *Wake, Rise, Resist* the “on ramp” to activism because it lays out an easy path for becoming part of the resistance. We firmly believe more people should understand how easy it is to be involved in social activism and how we all can use our personalities and skills to help the movement.

So, um, yeah—but how do I actually **get started**?

Right. Well, truly: it is quite easy. Activism is all about your passions and your talents. First, think about what you are good at—your skills, your talents, your interests (and also what you do *not* like to do). Next, think about what issues you are interested in. List them all—big and small. (Don't worry if the list is long. It should be! There's a lot to worry about right now.) Then pick one or two issues on that list that you care most deeply about and focus yourself on them like a laser. Study them. Find out who is affected by this issue and whether all types of peoples (races, ethnicities, genders) are affected equally by it. Last, find a group already working on the problem and offer your help.

What to do? Where to begin?

- Learn about how powerful young people have been in earlier movements! To start, read the Slate article “They Were Assumed to Be Puppets of Martin Luther King Jr.” by Rebecca Onion (on slate.com) and listen to “From Little Rock to Parkland: A Brief History of Youth Activism” by Erin B. Logan on NPR (npr.org).
- You are not the only young person who cares. Find ways to connect with like-minded people, whether that's online or IRL.
- Get together with friends and start a March for Our Lives local action club. (Or an intersectional feminist club ... or a LGBTQ+ alliance ... or a Dreamers and Friends group or)
- There are ways to get involved locally, nationally, and internationally. A quick Google search will find you groups working on the issue you care about. Research them and find one that looks reputable and worthy of your time and efforts and then write them to get involved!
- Use your earbud time to learn more about progressive values and/or the issues you care about. Some suggestions for podcasts to check out: Code Switch, Show About Race, #GoodMuslimBadMuslim, Latino USA, Pod Save the People, Intersection, Another Round, Backtalk, Two Broads Talking Politics, For Colored Nerds with Eric and Brittany, Latino Rebels, We Want the Airwaves, and so, so many more.

SOME ESSENTIAL BOOKS

Wake, Rise, Resist (of course!!)

How I Resist: Activism and Hope for a New Generation, Maureen Johnson

Young Revolutionary: A Teen's Guide to Activism, Chanice Lee

The Making of Black Lives Matter: A Brief History of an Idea, Christopher J. Lebron

SOME ESSENTIAL SITES

March for Our Lives: www.marchforourlives.com

Advocates for Youth: www.advocatesforyouth.org

Black Youth Project 100: byp100.org

Amplify: www.amplifyyourvoice.org

Millennial Politics: millennialpolitics.co

Young Feminist Wire: yfa.awid.org

FRIDA Young Feminist Fund: youngfeministfund.org

Democracy Matters: www.democracymatters.org

Sierra Student Coalition: www.sierraclub.org/youth



For more on teen activism, visit wakeriseresist.com (or find us @wakeriseresist) and buy the book:

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