
Overview:

In her lecture, titled "Activism," Sandy Theis shares several examples of ProgressOhio making a difference by applying political pressure on Ohio's government.

Summary:

Sandy Theis, Executive Director of ProgressOhio, introduces the different initiatives that ProgressOhio takes to achieve justice for its fellow citizens in this excerpt, "Activism for Congressional Redistricting Reform in Ohio." Theis pushes for further activism and involvement throughout the community by encouraging congressional redistricting reform in Ohio.

ODE 9-12 STANDARD 1: *Social Studies; Course, American Government; Topic 1, Civic Involvement; Topic 2, Civic Participation and Skills; Topic 3, Basic Principles of the U.S. Constitution (civil rights and suffrage); Topic 4, Role of the People; Topic 5, Ohio's State and Local Governments, Topic 6, Public Policy*

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the importance of activism to the progress of the U.S. government? How can activists sometimes better enact politicians' ideas than the politicians themselves?
2. What are some other important platforms for activism in American politics?
3. In what ways can students make a real difference on topics that are important to them?

Activity:

Divide the class into small groups. Each group will develop a subject that requires the focus of activism, and outline a procedure for how activists can cultivate change around this subject. The process:

- a. Define the problem and its effects.
- b. Find reputable sources and reports about the subject.
- c. Construct a practical proposal for how changes can be made.
- d. Develop a plan to reach out to fellow citizens to garner support.
- e. Decide how to effectively contact and communicate with government officials.

Each group will share their findings with the rest of the class. The class should discuss what is or is not effective in the process of activism.

Resources:

Activism in Ohio with ProgressOhio: <http://progressohio.org/>

Defining activism: <https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/defining-activism>

