

Chapter 11: 2SLGBTQIA+ Community Centers: A Beacon of Hope

HANDOUT: Taking Action

Directions Step 1: Before beginning your “Taking Action” project, read [Advocates for Youth’s Youth Activist Toolkit](#) in its entirety.

Directions Step 2: Either individually or in your groups, choose one of the following options for completion. Before you begin the project you will need to determine what criteria will be most important to include and assess in your direct action campaign. You **MUST** get approval of this criteria from your teacher before you begin working on the direct action project.

Option A: Create a Public Service Announcement (PSA) that explains to local New Jersey citizens the history of the Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice and the essential services the center provides for local residents of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, as well as other members of the community. In your PSA you should also discuss how helping the center find a new physical location would be beneficial to the community in terms of your “equitable access” definition and method devised in the “Shrinking Budgets and Access” worksheet and encourage people to donate to the Center to aid them in those efforts. Your PSA might be in the form of a TikTok video (or series of TikTok videos), a PowerPoint Presentation, digital story board, flyers you can distribute locally or some other pre-approved format.

Option B: Organize a letter writing campaign of local students and other community members to write local representatives and urge them to support the Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice in securing a new physical location for their operations in Princeton. For this letter writing campaign you should create a template of a letter that constituents can send to their local representatives. That template should contain the history of the Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice and the essential services the center provides for local residents of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, as well as other members of the community. In your letter template you should also discuss how helping the center find a new physical location would be beneficial to the community in terms of your “equitable access” definition and method devised in the “Shrinking Budgets and Access” worksheet and encourage local officials to help the center secure a new physical location.

Option C: Create a Public Service Announcement (PSA) that explains to local New Jersey citizens the history of 2SLGBTQIA+ community centers and the essential services such centers provide to local residents of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, as well as other members of the community. In your PSA you should identify an “optimal location” for a new 2SLGBTQIA+ community center to be opened and discuss how that location would be beneficial to the community in terms of your “equitable access” definition and method devised in the “Shrinking Budgets and Access” worksheet. Your

PSA might be in the form of a TikTok video (or series of TikTok videos), a PowerPoint Presentation, digital story board, flyers you can distribute locally or some other pre-approved format.

Option D: Organize a letter writing campaign of local students and other community members to write local representatives and urge them to open a new 2SLGBTQIA+ center in New Jersey in order to reduce the number of New Jersey residents that do not currently have “equitable access” to an 2SLGBTQIA+ center (using your “Shrinking Budgets and Access” worksheet). For this letter writing campaign you should create a template of a letter that constituents can send to their local representatives. That template should contain the history of 2SLGBTQIA+ community centers and the essential services such centers provide to local residents of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, as well as other members of the community. In your letter template you should also identify an “optimal location” for a new 2SLGBTQIA+ community center to be opened and discuss how that location would be beneficial to the community in terms of your “equitable access” definition and method devised in the “Shrinking Budgets and Access” worksheet

Option E: If you have another idea for how you would like to dedicate your efforts to take action for this project, please see your teacher for pre-approval.

Additional Resources that may be useful:

- For Public Service Announcements, check out [this Scholastic Resource](#).
- For letter writing campaigns, check out [this resource from The University of Kansas's Community Toolbox](#).

Handout References:

Gasch, R. & Reticker-Flynn, J. (2019). *Youth activist toolkit*. Advocates for Youth.
<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Youth-Activist-Toolkit.pdf>

Scholastic (n.d.). *Public service announcement lesson*.
https://www.scholastic.com/listencarefully/pdf/Listen_Carefully_Storyboard.pdf

The University of Kansas. (n.d.). *Section 1. Writing letters to elected officials*. Community Tool Box.
<https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/advocacy/direct-action/letters-to-elected-officials/main>