

P.A.U.S.E

People Advocating and Uniting for Social Equity

Primary Contact: Dylan Cullen (P): 978.821.5532, (E): dylan.cullen@mymail.champlain.edu

Faculty Advisor: Faith Yacubian (E): fyacubian@champlain.edu

MISSION STATEMENT

Champlain College's "PAUSE" is a group comprised of student, staff, and faculty members dedicated to educating, informing, and inspiring other members of the Champlain College community to pause, to question societal systems and their oppressive potential, and then take action to create positive social change on campus, communal, and global scales.

VALUE STATEMENT

Using various mediums of art, advocacy, and activism as their canvas, the group focuses primarily on social justice and human rights issues, understanding that these umbrella terms encompass endless topics that are forever changing. With that stipulation, this group recognizes the importance of constantly educating itself so that its members can respond to the needs of others. The group is committed to addressing social justice and human rights issues first on a campus level, believing that education and activism are two of the most potent tools for combating ignorance and the hurt that can so often be the product of a person's lack of awareness.

OUTCOMES STATEMENT

Through the production and display of performance, visual, written, and experiential art, the group hopes to create a more vibrant, welcoming, and fearless campus that is not only aware of the problems present in the world today, but is willing to take action to incite change. In addition, the group aims to foster an environment where others feel comfortable and encouraged to question and challenge those aspects of life that are oppressive to people, especially those whose voices are not or will not be heard.

AGENDA

**All events will be open and free to the public.*

- ❖ **ANGST Debate Night (one per academic year)**
Major social justice policy debate housed on campus that includes forerunners in the local political and social justice spheres. Potential partners include the Student Government Association, Sustain Champlain EcoReps, Core Division, Center for Service and Civic Engagement, Diversity Ambassadors, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, etc.
- ❖ **Performance art pieces (two per semester, increasing upon interest)**
Themed performance art pieces focused on sparking conversation about various social justice, environmental, and political issues. These conversations will be the building blocks for Activist Symposiums.
- ❖ **Activist Symposiums (one per semester)**
Solution-based discussions that are built around demonstrated student interest, including feedback from performance art pieces, spoken word events, and gallery showings.

- ❖ Spoken Word Nights and Gallery Showings (upon interest)
Centered around relevant, current topics and themes. Displays student and community work.

POTENTIAL TOPICS OR THEMES FOR ACTIVIST WORK

- ❖ Subversion of societal expectations (i.e. for perfectionism, ideal body image, inaccurate or unrealistic norms, gender rigidity in expression, systemic principles centered around a binary model, etc.)
- ❖ Reclaiming, reforming, restructuring, and celebrating of marginalized identities
- ❖ Questioning of local, communal, and global policies, systems, popular cultural influences, and power dynamics
- ❖ Community engagement as tool for changemaking (i.e. democracy on paper v. democracy in action)