

ACTIVISM DODGEBALL

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OBJECTIVE //

- To generate group action ideas for social change, to recognize that different actions target different audiences, and to begin follow-up on group learnings

TIME // 30-60 minutes

GROUP SIZE // Any

MATERIALS //

- GOOS (Good On One Side) paper; Pens/pencils/markers
- 4 buckets/baskets; Tape/clips
- Flipchart paper

PREPARATIONS //

- Tear scrap paper into quarters
- Make four labels (entitled 'Friends & Family', 'Businesses', 'Government', and 'General Public') and attach each label to one of the four buckets/baskets

NOTES //

- Like any physical activity, take necessary precautions when playing dodgeball to ensure safety, and an inclusive and positive atmosphere. Anyone who cannot physically participate may act as a referee or bucket guard, or can lead conversations with those who are eliminated about potential target audiences for follow-up actions.
- If your group is particularly large and you have a large space, consider separating participants into more than two teams. Create a circle at the center of the room that is off-limits, allowing all teams to play against each other rather than just their neighbours.¹

ACTIVITY GUIDE

1. Divide the participants into two teams. Give each team a pile of GOOS paper and some pens/pencils/markers.
2. Explain that there are lots of things that we can do as individuals to raise awareness about the issue/s (food sovereignty, mining, water, etc) you've discussed. Different actions are aimed at different audiences. For instance, an awareness campaign may be aimed at the general public, while a product boycott would target a specific company or business.

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3. Tell your group they are going to play a game of dodgeball to see how creative they can be in generating ideas to take action. Explain that they will have 5 minutes to write down as many ideas as they can: they should write each idea on separate piece of paper, then scrunch them up into balls. To help participants brainstorm different actions, invite them to consider four audiences: friends & family, general public, government and businesses. The more ideas each team has, the more paper balls they will have to play dodgeball!
4. After the paper balls are formed, collect pens and unused paper from each group, and explain the rules of Activism Dodgeball:
 - a. Each team throws their paper balls at members of the opposing team, aiming at the body rather than the head
 - b. If a paper ball is caught before it hits the ground, the thrower is eliminated
 - c. Balls that have fallen on the ground can be picked up to be thrown again
 - d. Teams must stay on their half (or part) of the room
 - e. When people are hit, they should collect the paper ball that eliminated them and sit down at the side of the room. While seated, they should open the paper ball, read the action idea, and determine who it targets, whether government, general public, businesses, or friends and family.
 - f. The game will end when all the players of one team have been eliminated
5. Play dodgeball!
6. When the game is over, have everyone collect all the pieces of paper and gather around the buckets. Ask each person to read their action/s out loud and suggest the targeted audience (e.g. businesses, government, general public, or friends and family). Seek thoughts and consensus from the group about which audience the action most directly targets, and ask the reader to dunk their ball into the appropriately-labeled bucket. For an extra challenge, ask them to throw it from a set distance or special points in the room.

Alternative:

- During the game, have students stay seated where they are hit. At the end of the game, those who are still playing simply sit where they were last standing. The discussion proceeds as above, but participants throw their balls toward the appropriate bucket from where they're sitting. Add points for each successful bucket landing and this can change which team wins the game!
7. Once all the paper balls are placed in the buckets, ask the following discussion questions:
 - What does this game tell us about the potential actions for social justice we can take?
 - Why is it important to raise awareness among different audiences?
 8. Have the group select one or two actions to do together to raise awareness on a particular social justice issue (e.g. food security), and begin preparations.