

Topic: Evaluating the 1960s Student Movement @ CUNY & Beyond

Scope & Rationale

“Evaluating the 1960s Student Movement @ CUNY & Beyond” is a 2 part in-class activity that examines the various student movements during the 1960s. By exploring these movements across CUNY and the broader United States, this sequence of activities will let students explore the Five Demands campaign at CUNY, anti-war protests across the country, and the fight for broader equality across higher education during this time.

These activities are designed to be hands-on and incorporate differentiated learning strategies via group and individual work. By viewing archival materials of different mediums in this context, students are expected to critically and thoughtfully evaluate these various movements.

Description

Students will be split into small groups of 3-4 students and will be expected to work together in order to complete a total of 3 out of the 5 activities listed as a group. After completing activities 1-3, students will be asked to work individually on their final deliverable, where they can choose between creating an outline of their own campaign OR by creating their own student publication to report on any of the CUNY 1969 events/ actions.

This lesson is intended to take place over 4 (75 minute) classes.

Classroom learning outcome(s):

By the end of the class, students should be able to...

- Explain key events and actions that took place during the 1960s student movement at CUNY.
- Connect historical events to today's political climate by evaluating primary sources (archival material) and secondary sources.
- Create their own outline of a political campaign OR their own student publication.

Essential Question(s):

By the end of the class, students should be able to answer...

- In what ways did student activism at CUNY and throughout the US shape the university we know today?
- How did students, faculty, and staff support each other in achieving their collective goals?

Instructional Sequence & Strategies

CLASSES 1 & 2 (GROUP WORK):

Step 1: Split into small groups (3-4 people)

Step 2: Create a shared document and complete 3 out of the 5 activities within your groups

- *Activities 1-3 are required*
- *One person will be responsible for submitting the doc on behalf of the group!*

Step 3: Debrief as a class!

CLASSES 3 & 4 (INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE):

Step 1: Select **one** of the remaining activities to complete on your own

Step 2: Share deliverables with class (if enough time)

Step 3: Whatever isn't finished should be finished for homework

Classes 1 & 2: Group Work

Activity 1: The 5 Demands (Required)

Step 1: Explore the resources listed below

- <https://fivedemands.commons.gc.cuny.edu/>
- https://blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/cuny1969/?page_id=1434

Step 2: Pick **one** of the 5 Demands to explore in more detail

As a group use an Open Education Resource (OER) to create a story map that provides an overview of demand and highlights its importance during the student movement at CUNY. You are expected to include at least 3 formative events or issues that lead to the creation of the demand. Make sure to include:

- The demand your group selected
- **Context** → Why was the demand being made? What makes it important to the broader movement?
- **Resolution** → What was the outcome?
- Relevant archival material (eg– photos) to help illustrate the story you are telling!
- 2-3 sentences on how the 5 demands have shaped your experiences at CUNY.

Suggested archival resource: <https://cdha.cuny.edu/>

Suggested Story Map tool: <https://storymap.knightlab.com/>

***As always, remember to **cite your sources** when needed!!!

Step 3: Provide the link to your story map in your shared doc. Make sure to double check access settings!

Activity 2: Beyond CUNY– 1969 Student Activism Across the US (Required)

Step 1: Watch an excerpt from “[*Campus Revolution: Inside the 1969 Student Uprising*](#)”

Context: This film follows Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), a national student activist organization in the United States during the 1960s. As an organization, SDS was best known for opposing the draft, leading the student anti-war movement during Vietnam, and for the Free Speech Movement at UC-Berkeley.

Step 2: Conduct background research

- Do some background research on SDS and the student anti-war movement of the 1960s
- Explore the digital archives! You can find resources here:
 - <https://www.sds-1960s.org/>
 - https://search.freedomarchives.org/search.php?view_collection=12
 - <https://www.library.kent.edu/special-collections-and-archives/students-democratic-society-records>
 - Feel free to conduct your own additional research– what is most important is finding archival material!

Step 3: Create your own digital library

Based on your research, as a group select 5 pieces of archival material that you feel best represent the student anti-war movement/ SDS. Be sure to properly **cite** materials you choose to include in your digital library. **Consider:** What materials would give context to a person who knows nothing about the subject?

Make sure to include:

- Your selected material
 - Can include: photos, buttons, flyers, speeches, or other ephemera your group finds interesting!
- A brief explanation of what the item is (1-2 sentences)
- A brief explanation of why you chose that item (1-2 sentences)

Activity 3: Student/ Faculty Fight Anti-Fascism (Required)

Step 1: Look over the archival materials listed below

Source 1: <https://cdha.cuny.edu/items/show/3732>

Source 2: <https://cdha.cuny.edu/items/show/3642>

Source 3: <https://cdha.cuny.edu/items/show/11872>

Source 4: <https://cdha.cuny.edu/items/show/4982>

Step 2: Discuss the following as a group:

- Is there a specific document that sticks out to your group? Why?
- What are some of the common themes of the materials that you evaluated?
- Are any themes across the materials relevant to other moments in history that you can think of? Are they relevant to what is going on today?

Step 3: As a group, provide a written summary of what was discussed

Classes 3 & 4: Individual Practice

Activity 4: Create Your Own Campaign!

Step 1: Brainstorm a topic you feel strongly about

Hint: if you're stuck, consider something you'd like to see change at CUNY!

Step 2: Start planning your campaign. Make sure to include the following:

- The issue you are addressing
- Context of the issue— what is happening in the school/city/world/etc. that makes this an important campaign?
- Name of your campaign
- Purpose— explain WHY the campaign is important
- 1-2 concrete demands— make sure they are winnable!
- An event you are planning around the campaign. Describe the event and what will take place. Make sure to consider who will be speaking, timeframe of the event, etc.
Examples of potential events include (but are not limited to):
 - Protest/ rally
 - Teach-in
 - Campaign launch party
 - Phone banking
- A flyer for the event. Feel free to use a digital tool (such as Canva, Photoshop, etc.) or get creative and put your art skills to the test! Remember to include:
 - Some type of visual to get people interested → what would make YOU want to get involved?
 - Your demands → let people know what they are showing up in support of!
 - Type of event
 - Time
 - Location
 - Any additional info you can think of! → if you were going to an event, what would you want to know ahead of time?

Step 3: Compile your planning sheet and flyer in PDF format for submission

Note: You are NOT planning a real campaign or event, this is just for the purpose of the assignment!!

Activity 5: Become a Student Journalist!

Step 1: Select an issue to report on

You can select any of the events/ issues that we have learned about during this activity (eg– The 5 Demands, anti-war movement, etc.), other historical student movements (eg– Civil Rights sit-ins, The South African apartheid divestment movement, etc.) or a contemporary issue related to student activism that you find important.

Step 2: Make a copy of [this template](#) on Canva to begin creating your own student newspaper

Note: you must have a Canva account in order to make a copy. Canva accounts are **free**, all you need is an email to sign up!

Follow these steps to make a copy:

- After opening the template on Canva, click on “File” in the upper lefthand corner
- Once you see the drop down, you should see “Make a Copy”
- Upon doing so, Canva will open a copy of the document in your own account

Feel free to customize this template, just make sure to include the relevant/ required information

Step 3: Research, Research, Research!

In order to write your articles, you will have to do some research into what happened. You are encouraged to look through digital archives for first-hand accounts. Make sure to pay special attention to speeches, posters, etc. from key events/ turning points during the student movement you are focusing on.

Step 4: Get to writing!

Using the template provided, put your journalist skills to the test! After doing some research into past student movements, select key events/ turning points that you want to focus on. Write up a 200-300 word summary of events for your stories. You will be expected to write a **total of 3 articles** based on the true events of your research. Remember to include:

- What happened and when
- Relevant quotes from people who were there (eg– speeches, interviews, etc.)
- Photos from the archive that depict the events you are focusing on. Make sure to **cite** the images that you are using.

Step 5: Save your newspaper as a PDF file for submission

Check for Understanding

- Group submission of activities 1-3 & in-class discussion
- Individual submission of activity 4 or 5

Note(s):

- If short on time in the semester, you may opt for students to complete the work from “Classes 3 & 4” as homework

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Create Your Own Campaign! Planning Sheet

What is the issue you are addressing?

Context of the issue

Consider: what is happening in the school/city/world/etc. that makes this an important campaign?

Name of your campaign

Make sure it is something catchy!

Purpose

Consider: WHY the campaign is important

Your Demands

List 1-2 concrete demands that you are organizing around.

Consider: What is something that is winnable and popular enough to get others to rally around?

Campaign Event

Below, describe the event and what will take place. Consider who will be speaking, timeframe of the event, etc. Examples of potential events include (but are not limited to):

- Protest/ rally
- Teach-in
- Campaign launch party
- Phone banking