



HOW TO STOP TALKING AND START DOING



WHERE DO I START?

This is very a very basic guide for you to get yourself off your feet, there are many more in-depth guides if you already have an idea of what you want to do and how you might do it. You can do incredible things with a little creativity and some perseverance. It doesn't matter if you're too broke, employed, depressed, busy, or whatever to do something; I can guarantee you can figure out a way around it or simply another action to do. Either you want to do it, or you don't.

Fighting against power structures is not easy. Many institutions exist to keep us tired and apathetic for a reason. It's easy to get discouraged. However, you have so much more power than they want you to think. Stop worrying about *if* your actions will make a difference and just start doing them! You won't know until you try. If you decide you can't do anything you will prove yourself right.

The first place to start is to simply look around you and see something that needs fixed. This can be anything, your school taking money from evil corporations, ice on your streets, innocent people rotting in your prisons, people starving, anything that makes you feel something. It's hard to fight every battle all at once, when you're starting out pick one issue you care deeply about to focus your energy on. It's important to find something you are passionate about; without passion you'll never get anything done.

Every one of our struggles are interconnected, I promise once you start helping one issue you'll wind up entangled in all the others too. What makes you the angriest? What keeps you up at night? I don't care if doing anything about it feels hopeless, pick something and commit to it. There is always something you can do. Stop worrying if your action is going to change the world, because it won't, focus on making right here right now just a little better for everyone around you.

A good rule of thumb is before every action is to ask, "Will anyone care?" Good action is forbidden by those in power and elicits a response, uplifts the people around you, or (usually) both.

If your action isn't met with resistance, it's most likely not doing anything.

WHAT KIND OF ACTION?

Unfortunately, every situation requires a different course of action. There's no one size fits all solution. However, there are four types of general categories of actions you can take that can be applied to almost every kind of cause or issue you're working on. They're listed easiest (and usually least effective) to riskiest (and more effective). It's important to employ all of these tactics not just one.

They also all require some sort of skill. I promise you will get better the more you do it. Unfortunately, the only way to get better at something is to keep trying it.

PROPAGANDA

Starting off easy is simply educating those around you on the issues and how to fix them. This can be anything from stickers to posters to graffiti to zines. It could be as simple as sharing your feelings and thoughts with a friend. Whatever gets your message out there works. One important thing to note is that to make this effective, it's good to give people a solution when you present them with a problem. People want a place to direct their anger, or they're not going to do anything no matter how good your message is.

Some suggested courses of action: flyering and stickering around town (with either wheat-paste or tape) this works best for notifying people to take action *against* something like to boycott. Graffiti on visible walls works best for slogans or informational stencils. For more elaborate education (beyond a couple words) zines are a great tool to educate people, you're reading this one after all.

When Pittsburgh anarchists' stickers were ripped down, they switched to wheat paste. When that didn't work, they made graffiti stencils. When one location was being covered up too quick, they simply moved where they were putting stuff up a few feet. It's very important to be flexible and creative with how you get your message across, and don't give up.

The paper that made this zine was stolen and was printed by scamming university printers to print for free. I learned to do this because I wanted to give out information for free. And you can to! When doing anything there's always a way to do it for cheap or free. Buy as little as you can.

MUTUAL AID

Give out free shit. It's really that simple. Food, clothes, first aid, harm reduction, anything that people need works. Make sure you give it out to anyone who needs it no questions asked. This can take some financial resources, unless you're up for stealing a lot of supplies (the more you steal the better though!), so you're probably going to want a couple other people to help you. Make sure before you steal/buy anything that you're filling an actual need of your community. Building a clothing drive when people need food isn't a good use of your time.

Remember that mutual aid is NOT charity. Charities come with criteria for the people you help and grants and control from those in power who perpetuate the issues you're trying to fix. Mutual aid shouldn't have large sponsors or ever deny people access for whatever reason.

If you're one person, a crockpot full of soup is an easy way to start giving out free hot food to people who need it. Chili is another good food option to try. If you're giving out food, try to pick rich foods with lots of nutrients in them like those examples. Try to avoid foods with common allergies like peanuts. It's good to make as much of the food vegan as you can to avoid risks like food poisoning and also just so more people can eat it.

RESISTANCE

This is the fun stuff. It's simply not allowing yourself to be controlled by what the ruling class has instilled into you. Steal, break, destroy everything that doesn't work for you. Tag a wall just because you can. Make shit and give it out for free. Learn how to make something you need instead of buying it. Detach yourself from needing the systems that control you as much as you can.

In doing this, you are doing two very important things. You are a) making sure you are having fun which is necessary to staying afloat in a world against you but also, b) in living your life as freely and as boldly as you want, you are inspiring others to do the same. The more everyone rejects their control, the less they have. It's much easier to break the rules when everyone else is doing it.

Steal, not because you need it, but because it's immoral to sell it for money anyway. Or just because it's fun. What have you stopped yourself from doing because it's not 'normal'? What do you not even consider because 'people just don't do that'? Allow yourself to do whatever the fuck you want. Show them you cannot be controlled.

TERROR

It's not enough to simply endure, you have to also fight back. This is high risk high reward. There is no guarantee that a Petition to remove AI art from an art gallery will work, but there is a guarantee that taking it down yourself will. You can attend a seminar on how to avoid surveillance cameras, or you can simply destroy them yourself.

A good example of this kind of action on a large scale is the warehouse burnings. If you do not get what you want, make them pay for it. Unions and strikes are simply compromises for the real threat we pose. Luigi's actions are another good example. They should fear us and our reactions. With one bullet Luigi saved the lives of thousands as it slashed the prices of medications.

This kind of action requires the most advanced OPSEC and the most caution when planning, although only if you wish to not be caught. Some good practices generally are to conceal your identity in every way. When concealing your face make sure you conceal everything including your eyebrows. Change clothes in a busy area so you are harder to track. Learn locations of cameras or take them down ahead of time. Use secure messaging apps or better yet leave no trace of a plan at all online or in writing. Avoid traceable means of transportation like a car with a license plate on it. Be smart and be safe.

WHAT SHOULD I READ?

I am not here to tell you how or what to think. While many leftists point to “Theory” (books and articles on leftist ideologies) as where to start when trying to learn about leftism, it’s easy to fall into the trap of assuming you simply “haven’t read enough” to do any action yet. While having a baseline of basic political ideology makes you good at *talking* about leftism, it isn’t strictly needed to make you good at *doing* anything about the things you would be reading about.

This being said, research is a great way of learning from others’ mistakes and getting ideas on how to improve yours and others’ conditions. You want to learn how to protect your community from ICE? Traditional theory doesn’t cover that, but a little research online in places like the anarchist library or simply adding “zine” to your search will. It’s also good for finding modern examples of movements you may want to take inspiration from.

Theory isn’t inherently bad. Looking into a bunch of other ideas to shape your own can be constructive and helpful. Having a good foundation in your beliefs is something that can be an asset. However, these ideas can be formed *after* you start doing the work. When you read about different leftist ideas on how to protest, it’s good to have experiences going to protests first to judge the credibility of the statements the authors make. Don’t replace the brainwashing of capitalism with blindly following another person’s thoughts.

Reading can also help you build confidence in the actions you inevitably will take. It can help you feel less alone, and that there are other people out there fighting with you. It can also help you not make mistakes by reading other people’s experiences and their missteps and how to avoid them.

Time is also valuable. It’s important to use your time wisely, especially now. Now is not the time to sit and think about concepts or conjectures, now is the time to start resisting in any way we can. Reading theory is a tool to use to your advantage; don’t let it slow you down.

	Classical Theory	Modern Theory
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most leftists understand and use language established by these authors so understanding these concepts make talking to other leftists easier 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Up to date (hopefully) with language, examples, and terminology - Can be more concise and specific with their topics - Made by people who understand the danger of action in the current era - Made by people who understand both the limitations and the advantages of technology - Free! - Contains up to date and modern examples
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Usually out of date. Most classic books were written in a world that is unrecognizable today - Translations, academic wording, and complex vocab make these texts difficult to read and understand fully - Long and more time consuming to read 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hard to verify credibility - Harder to find (not sold in bookstores, but you found this one, didn't you?)

HOW TO FIND (GOOD) LEFTIST ORGS

Doing anything by yourself is hard. It's good to have people who can supply you, support you, and lend you skills you might not already have. However, the trouble comes with finding this group of people who are also action oriented and are actually going to help you. Nothing is more infuriating or exhausting than begging a group of leftists to actually go out and do something.

How do I know the org I'm about to join is good?

Good Signs	Grey Signs	Bad Signs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Has a Signal (encrypted messaging app)- A mix of people from many backgrounds- Good OPSEC practices- They hand out zines- No clear leader (less vulnerable)- Not afraid to advocate for breaking the law	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- On social media (questionable opsec practice, but not inherently bad)- Non-profit (see below)- Hierarchy (never really seen this work, it might in theory though, just be careful)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- They collaborate with the police- They are recognized by a position of power- They advocate to always follow laws- They endorse a politician- "Relaxed" or easy going about serious things like backlash from institutions- Any sort of book club like element

Any and all collaboration with the state or a system of power should be a red flag. A club recognized a school mean that the school has control of them, via things like funding, privileges of resources, and access to things like members names. This power means that everyone in the club is incentivized to not do anything to "risky" to protect the club.

This problem also applies to any organization connected to the government like political parties and non-profits. Non-profits are able to do some good though, and some action almost require things like non-profit status to do (for example: bail funds), just be wary of this sort of thing.

It's also good to examine how secretive and focused on protecting the members an organization is before joining. Even the most mild of actions can end up being targeted simply to set an example to others. Staying unidentifiable and safe is really important, and when organizations don't take the possibility of backlash seriously, they are a huge risk to you and others.

What do I do if I'm in a bad organization / there aren't any good ones?

As long as you don't give them too much personal information (legal name, where you live, anything you wouldn't want the government to be able to connect to you) you're not putting yourself at too much risk by engaging with a bad org. Even in a bad org you can still do important work. One thing that these orgs tend to have is resources you can hijack. They have manpower, money, and influence (to an extent) that you can use to your advantage. Above all else though, these kinds of orgs give you connections. You are probably not alone in your longing for action; you'll be able to meet already like-minded people to recruit.

I'm the only leftist in my area, what can I do?

You're most likely not, look up a city near you on social media and leftist buzzwords you will find something. Unfortunately, you usually have to go through the mainstream orgs who don't do much to find the actual groups on the ground doing more radical actions unless you're lucky. Food not Bombs is usually easy to find and easy to start out with. Another good place to find leftists is in leftist subcultures like punk music.

But also, you don't need an organization to start doing things! You can do a lot on your own. A great way to introduce people to leftism is to show them with your actions what it can do, which works best with mutual aid style actions. If you start helping your community out there's a good chance you won't be alone for long.

Spew yr shit! —> anarchotankiesm@protonmail.com

**Stop waiting around
for someone else to
do it for you.**