

LESSON PLAN

LENGTH OBJECTIVES

1 hour

Through this activity participants will:

- ❖ Learn how events like hosting documentary screenings or speakers can be effective tools for raising awareness within their school or parish community and contribute to larger advocacy goals.
- ❖ Plan a model event according to guidelines.

MATERIALS

- *Avenues to Advocacy: Planning Your Own Community Event* handout

PROCESS

While we often talk about social media as a method of raising awareness, it's also useful to personally reach out to members of your parish or school community to educate and mobilize around an issue. One of the best ways to do this is by bringing people together to learn about a specific problem and the solution proposed. This might include hosting a speaker who shares a story of personal struggle caused by a social injustice, a documentary screening and discussion or a fun fundraising event like a sports tournament or dance-a-thon that educates people about a problem while raising money.

Ask participants to think about events they've attended that inspired them to take action to address a particular social injustice.

Distribute the *Avenues to Advocacy: Planning Your Own Community Event* handout, and have participants complete it in groups of 3-5.

Have participants summarize their events—and how they planned their events—for the class.

Discussion

As a class, present the proposed events, and discuss:

1. What were some challenges in planning your event?
2. Consider your target audience and what you know about them. What do you expect them to already know about the topic?
3. Would you put this plan into action? Why or why not?
4. Do you think one type of event (documentary, speaker) is more effective than others?
5. Depending on the social justice issue addressed, event goals can vary in how quickly they can be accomplished. What are some advantages and disadvantages to events which are focused on immediate actions/results versus those which take a longer time and require more effort before results can be seen?