

Gender, Sex, & Power
Community-Based Action
Due: April 11

This assignment serves to connect class concepts to the real world. You are required to participate in one community-based action outside of class time and write a 3-4 response paper detailing your experience and connecting it to the coursework. **Please let me know what you plan on doing prior to your action.**

You can fulfill this assignment by:

- Volunteering for a minimum of two hours at a local non-profit (your supervisor at the nonprofit would email me confirmation)
- Attending an OSU student activist group's meeting or event
- Interviewing a non-profit/service worker
- Participating and/or organizing a teach-in or rally
- If you have additional ideas, let's discuss them

Writing the Response Paper

Your 3-4 page paper must include the following:

- Intro paragraph, body paragraphs, and conclusion paragraph
- Clear description of your community-based action
- Analyze the experience: What did you learn? What insights did you gain? Did anything surprise you?
- Connect to class: How does this organization or event relate to class concepts?
- Cite at least 3 of our readings, using proper MLA format

To Contact an Organization:

Some organizations may be sadly accustomed to harassing calls and emails. Also, many groups have overworked staff, so calling by phone might be more effective than emailing. You might consider saying something like:

“Hi, I’m a student in Women’s Studies at OSU, and I was wondering if I could come interview someone in your office for a class project?” (or, “I was wondering if I could come volunteer with your organization,” “I was wondering if you have any upcoming advocacy events I could attend,” etc.).

You can also provide my contact information in case the organizations have questions, or wish to verify who you are. For example:

“Would you like my instructor’s contact information?”

In some cases, organizations may not want untrained volunteers, or may not have time to provide an interview. If they turn you down, don’t worry ☺ Just pick a different option.

Local Organizations to Consider:

These are just suggestions, feel free to propose others

[Directory of OSU Student Organizations](#)

- You can search keywords like “women’s rights,” “violence,” “LGBT,” “justice,” etc.

LGBT Organizations

- [AIDS Resource Center \(ARC\)](#)
- [BRAVO](#) – Serving LGBT victims of violence, including domestic abuse
- [Equality Ohio](#) – Our state LGBT rights organization
- [Kaleidoscope Youth Center](#) – Advocacy for LGBT youth
- [PFLAG Columbus](#) – Group for parents, family, and friends of LGBT people
- [TransOhio](#) – Transgender rights organization
- [Stonewall Columbus](#) – LGBT community center

Reproductive Rights Organizations

- [Planned Parenthood of North Columbus](#)
- [Reproductive Rights Advocates of Columbus](#)

Rape and/or Domestic Violence-Prevention Organizations

- [Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio](#)
- [Student Wellness Center’s Sexual Violence Education & Support team \(in R-PAC\)](#)
- [Choices for Victims of Domestic Violence](#)

Workers’ Organizations

- MidOhio Worker’s Association - 2236 Summit Street, 614-262-0567. Labor College every Sunday, 4-6pm

General Civil Rights Organizations

- [American Civil Liberties Union \(ACLU\), Columbus office](#)