



# WORKSHEET: WHY AREN'T WE ALL ACTIVISTS?

Q1 What images and ideas come to mind when you hear about climate activism?

Q2 What is the definition of climate activism? How is it different from climate action?

**9min 50s** Q4 Complete the table ticking which direct actions you found most interesting.

Examples of Direct Action (Climate Activism)		Tick the ones you might like to get involved in
<b>Protests and Strikes</b>	<b>A</b> Campaigning for government inaction on oil spills	
	<b>B</b> Campaigning for indigenous land rights	
	<b>C</b> Campaigning for greater access to climate change education.	
<b>Disruptive Climate Action</b>	<b>A</b> Interrupting sport's matches	
	<b>B</b> Pulling up sikta spruce (not good for biodiversity) plantations which are not native forests.	
<b>Doing the Work (volunteering)</b>	<b>A</b> Educating people about the importance of trees and planting them!	
	<b>B</b> Cleaning beaches	
<b>Taking legal action against businesses or governments to force them to change their ways</b>	<b>A</b> First nation's people in Australia taking a case against a coal company to stop them mining on their land.	
	<b>B</b> Young people in Montana sued the government to change their energy policy moving from fossil fuels to renewable energy.	
<b>Other ways</b>	<b>A</b> Lobbying - writing letters, emails	
	<b>B</b> Teaching to raise awareness	
	<b>C</b> Artivism/Craftivism using murals to foster hope	

17mins 20 s Q5 Complete the table.

Type of action	Place a tick in the box to indicate which type of actions, in your opinion, are likely to influence governments, fossil fuel companies, and the public. Explain to your classmate why you are making these decisions.		
	Influence Government	Influence Fossil Fuel Companies	Influence the Public
Protests/Strikes			
Disruptive Climate Action			
Volunteering			
Legal Action			
Lobbying - writing letters, emails			
Teaching			
Artivism			

21min 30s Q6 Read the quotes on the next page and complete the tables

A What does each individual describe as the problem? Summarise in a sentence.	
Dale Vince	
Suella Braverman	
Ken Saro-wiwa	
Chase Iron Eyes	
Mary Lawlor	
Ayl	

	Dale Vince	Suella Braverman	Ken Saro-wiwa	Chase Iron Eyes	Mary Lawlor	Ayl
<b>B</b> Tick the people you think believe disruptive action is a way to address the problem. Discuss with the person beside you why they believe this.						
<b>C</b> Rank them from 1-5 from the person who has the least power (1) to the person who has the highest power (5)						
<b>D</b> Discuss what kind of world each person wants to see.						

## Why aren't we all activists?

### The ethics of disruptive direct action



The most effective protest is a disruptive one. It is not one where you stand at the side of the road and everything's going on as normal, while you chant and wave placards. That's less effective than when you disrupt everyday life, business as usual... There's a big harm happening in the world that is pushed to the background. And if we don't deal with it properly, the global temperature will disrupt life beyond all measures that we have.

**Dale Vince, *Just Stop Oil* donor**

[T]he Government [has a] duty to put the safety and interests of the law-abiding majority first. We are on their side, not the side of extremists who stick themselves to trains, glue themselves to roads... disrupt the fuel supply... or block ambulances... These extremists stop people from earning a living, gaining an education or caring for a loved one in need. Ordinary people who are working, learning or caring are never deemed by the extremists as important enough to stand in the way of their plots and plans.

**Suella Braverman MP, former UK Home Secretary**

I am upset because my son has an appointment for over a month. Now, today, he is going to miss that appointment. They might not be able to see him now until next month. He needed to attend that office today. There are a lot of kids in that bus; they need to go to school. [The protest] is unfair. They could do it after the kids are in school. Then I can understand. I am very angry.

**Ayl, a commuter caught behind a *Just Stop Oil* slow march**

'Keep out of prison,' he wrote  
'Don't get arrested anymore.'  
But while the land is ravaged  
And our pure air poisoned  
When streams choke with pollution  
Silence would be treason  
Punishable by a term in prison.

**Ken Saro-wiwa, Nigerian writer & environmental activist**

[F]our women up on the hill decided to go forward of their own volition, and they crossed the fence, and those women led us into unknown territory, territory we had not known since 1889\*. I was there when 80 people rushed that fence line after these four women demonstrated that bravery, and these women went straight for the heavy equipment. They offered their bodies in a sacrifice to put themselves between financial extractive genocide and ecocide and the future of their families.

**Chase Iron Eyes, Lakota People's Law Project, discussing the Standing Rock Protests**

These defenders are basically trying to save the planet, and in doing so save humanity. These are people we should be protecting, but are seen by governments and corporations as a threat to be neutralised. In the end it's about power and economics. At its core it's about maintaining the power structures in place. This is true regardless of whether it's a dictatorship, democracy or a corrupt narco state, and regardless of the state's professed commitment to human rights, protecting the environment and combating climate change.

**Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders**



**25min 20s Q7**

\*At the Battle of Wounded Knee in 1889, 300 Lakota people were slaughtered by United States Army troops while protecting their ancestral lands

Based on the quotes above, what are the arguments for and against engaging in disruptive direct action and civil disobedience?

For	Against

Q8 Rank these actions in terms of the ones you would most like to take, 1=action I would most like to take, 5=action I would least like to take.

**Find out about the next Friday for Futures School Strike \_\_\_\_\_**

**Do some voluntary work\_\_\_\_\_**

**Teach another class group about the climate crisis\_\_\_\_\_**

**Lobby a politician\_\_\_\_\_**

**Create a piece of activism or craftivism\_\_\_\_\_**

## WORKSHEET ANSWERS: WHY AREN'T WE ALL ACTIVISTS?

Q2 What is the definition of climate activism? How is it different from climate action?

**Climate action: any efforts taken to combat climate change and its impacts.**

**Climate activism: Actions on behalf of a cause that goes beyond what is conventional or routine.**

**These are direct noticeable actions to achieve political or noticeable change.**

**21min 30s** Q6 Read the quotes on the next page and complete the tables

A What does each individual describe as the problem? Summarise in a sentence.	
<b>Dale Vince</b>	We need to deal with climate breakdown and disruptive protests are more effective.
<b>Suella Braverman</b>	The protestors are extremists who don't care about the lives of ordinary people or the disruption they cause.
<b>Ken Saro-wiwa</b>	Our environment is being destroyed and this is affecting our health and welfare, we have no choice but to protest.
<b>Chase Iron Eyes</b>	Extracting fossil fuels is killing our environment and powerful companies are doing this on ancestral lands.
<b>Mary Lawlor</b>	Governments and businesses are powerful and they are prioritizing profit over people, they are vilifying the protestors who are trying to protect us.
<b>Ayl</b>	Protestors need to protest at a time that does not disrupt our lives.

**25min 20s** Q7

Arguments for	Arguments against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There's a moral pressure to DO SOMETHING</li> <li>• Taking these kinds of actions make people feel like they're doing something</li> <li>• Solidarity with the Global South &amp; with future generations,</li> <li>• Combat government apathy &amp; non-responsiveness - even if it's a negative response</li> <li>• It puts pressure on vested interests such as the fossil-fuel lobby</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threat of prison</li> <li>• Are you targeting the correct people with your action?</li> <li>• Potential to alienate public e.g. by interrupting sport</li> <li>• "It's not my problem..."</li> <li>• "This kind of action doesn't influence anything..."</li> <li>• Is disruptive direct action (e.g. suffragettes) truly more effective than peaceful protest (e.g. Ghandi &amp; Indian independence).</li> </ul>

