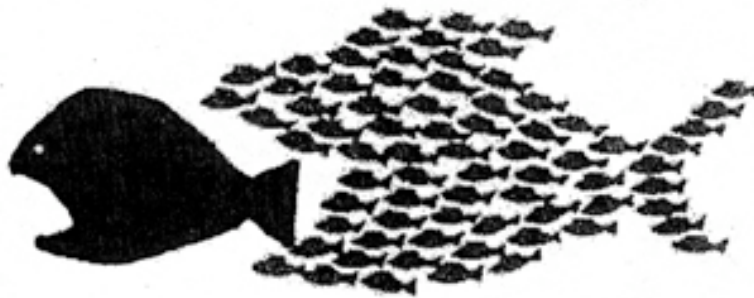
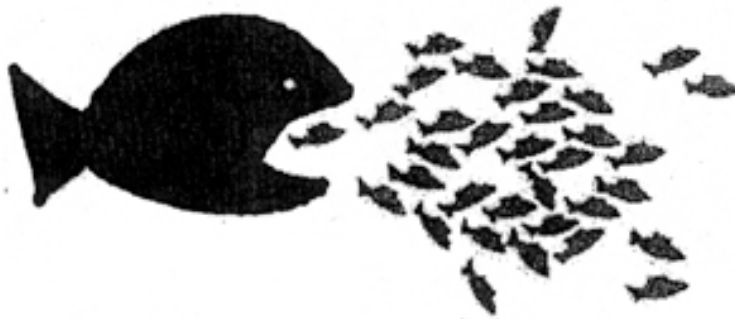


Organizer's Tools to Fight the Cuts

To Help Us Organize and Get Organized



If you find any good sources of information, send them to:

NoCutsToEducation@gmail.com

More resources can be found at:

www.AgainstCuts.org

How to Begin Organizing at Your Campus

- o Any event you have should be in the most traversed place on campus, at the time when most students are out of class, so there will be more people around, and it will be easier to find those who are interested in taking action. Put up posters around campus for everyone to see.
- o Always have a sign-up sheet to collect e-mail addresses and phone numbers and try and e-mail this list regularly with updates and events. E-mailing is convenient, but cannot be the only tool you use in organizing.
- o Classroom announcements are the best way to get students involved. People from your classes already know you and people are more likely to go to an event where they know someone.
- o Passing out fliers is a good way to find new people, but you really have to engage people in a conversation, tell them about the budget cuts, and why they are affected, not just hand them a piece of paper. Let them know that these cuts affect them, and that they have a right to stand up against them.
- o People go to an event and get pumped up to do something, but often don't know what. A big reminder that organizing is doing something. Suggest that they contact everyone they know to inform them about the cuts and find others who are interested in organizing. If people seem really ambitious, have them plan an event.

Setting up an Information Table

- o Find a well-traveled place on campus during a time with higher traffic. (i.e. the quad at lunchtime)
- o Set up a table with information including fliers, buttons, t-shirts, and informational packets.
- o Be sure to have a sign-up sheet to collect e-mail address and keep people informed on upcoming events.
- o Don't just sit or stand behind the table -- get out there and talk to people and hand them fliers.

Setting up a Speak-Out

- o Choose a busy place on campus.
- o Talk with the school staff to get permission to use the specific place at a date and time when many people are around and to use a microphone.
- o Put fliers and posters up, and make class announcements. Talk to students ahead of time so you will have a line up of students to Speak-Out as well as inviting counselors, teachers, people in clubs, and college workers.
- o Be sure to have an intro about what the speak-out is for, and to have a follow up event to announce and a flier to let people know how about it.
- o Invite everyone to come up to the microphone and say something about how the cuts have affected them.

How to Do a Wall of Shame

- o Find a busy place on campus that has a big wall space.
- o Tape up butcher paper, and have someone nearby with markers.
- o Have people write on the paper how the cuts are affecting them.
- o Be sure to collect e-mail addresses and phone numbers, and have fliers with info on upcoming events to give to people after they write.

Organizations in Community Colleges

How to build coalitions and network for action

When you're thinking about organizing an event on your campus or are doing outreach to a community college, it's helpful to contact the groups listed below; these groups and organizational structure will typically be found on most campuses.

As you make connections, if you don't already know who the main activists, organizers, mover/shaker types are on campus, find out (in other words, who makes things happen on campus, who has good turnout at events, who knows how to get the word out in a way that people respond). These people are not always part of the official organizations or structures of the college.

Building a coalition, creating working relationships, reaching everyone at all levels of the college takes time (that we sometimes don't have), so if you can work through already established communication channels and networks, that's very helpful. Find out if there is an email listserv that reaches everyone on campus, and what places on campus have the most visibility for postings.

When you contact individuals or groups have your message together: try to be clear with the why, what, who, when, how details, and have specifics you are asking them to consider or commit to: for example, come to the meeting next Wed., at 5pm in the student lounge (details!), pass word (the details!) on to students in class, etc. Have this in written form, so you can hand it to the person you are talking with or email it to them. It is very easy to forget the details. You can use this as a press release when talking with the student newspapers, radio or TV stations. It can lead to interviews – more coverage. Make sure that you include contact information – at least an email address.

Always stress how your efforts are relevant to the people you are communicating with—stating the obvious is called for—don't assume people know why a certain topic is important. Lastly, when you meet or gather people, end with next steps and clear follow-up, and make sure there's a way to contact the people who said they'd do certain things.

All along the way appreciate each other for the organizing work you're doing—it takes perseverance, patience, humor, and a lot of caring and hard work to make change—things generally go better when people feel connected and valued.

Groups/Organizations often found on Community College Campuses:

Students: Student Government; Student Activities; Student Clubs; Student Ambassadors; College Newspaper, College Radio Station

Faculty: Faculty Senate; Faculty Union

Staff: Staff Senate; Staff Union(s)

Administrators: Administrative Leadership Group; committees on campus that relate to the topic; leaders in Instruction and Student Services (these may be staff and/or faculty members, as well as administrators)

Other Groups on Campus: special programs like EOPS (Equal Opportunity), DSPPS (Disabled Students), Learning Communities like PACE (Program for Adult College Education). Some of these groups have broader contacts that can be engaged also.

We Must All Become Organizers

Thinking About Broadening Our Connections and Our Struggle

The first step in organizing is to talk with everyone we are connected with about what we are organizing around. We don't have to decide for people whether they might be interested. Let people choose for themselves. It can be surprising, how someone who seems quiet and uninvolved can show interest and get involved in times like these.

So, talk with everyone. That person might not be able to join us at this moment, but maybe in the future they can or they may know someone who is ready now.

This can be one of those times when ordinary people show their extraordinary capacities.

The Last Month Of School

- We should have our tools at hand – fact sheets, copies of pages from the organizer's packet or from other sources – to give to people who show some interest.
- There are people in our classes who, for many reasons, have not paid much attention to the budget cuts. We should talk with them anyways. Breaking the isolation many feel is a first step.
- We should talk with our teachers – they are often waiting for students to step up.
- We should talk with the staff on our campuses, many are fearing layoffs.
- Maybe organize an event before the semester ends – an organizers meeting, a wall of shame or anything to bring people together.
- Maybe some folks will want to get together over the break, to hang out and make plans for the coming year.

Over the winter break or other times when we are not in school

- **Each one of us linked with a lot of people**, through our families, friends, work, community or religious groups etc.
 - Each one of those people knows about the effects of the economic crisis.
 - Each one of them knows about the state budget cuts and place a value on education.
 - Put information on your Facebook or other online profile.
 - Start a blog or post on your blog.
 - They are all possible allies, activists or organizers.
- **We need to talk with everyone**
 - When we are at work, family or holiday gatherings – everywhere we go. It is not to be a broken record about the cuts. But there will be opportunities. Have a fact sheet in your purse or pocket.
 - Do you know people at other schools? (Pre-K thru the Universities) Can you contact them and see what is going on and if they are interested or who might be?
- **When you meet people who are interested**, get their name, number or email. (Make a note of who they are, so you will remember later on.)
- **Do we know people who are active in organizations?** Religious or community groups? Unions?
- **Any grouping can be a valuable ally, as we get closer to March.**
 - They can help get the word out.
 - They might organize people to join the mobilization.
 - They might be able to provide a meeting place for community, K-12 groups.
 - They might contribute money to support the rental of a bus to Sacramento or run fliers or whatever else is needed.
 - Stay connected with others who are organizing – share useful information – send it to NoCutsToEducation@gmail.com so we can share it with others.

How to Make a Blog

A blog is a useful tool for keeping people up to date on events, information and planning. It is most useful as a networking tool as it is easy to add your blog's web address to fliers or attach it to emails. Communication in organizing is key – and a blog can be a useful center for communication online.

Creating the Blog

1. The easiest way to create a blog is through www.Blogger.com. It is intuitive and you don't have to have any experience building websites to use this service – you simply fill in the blank! You must first have a gmail email account, which it will ask you to create if you don't already have one.
2. After you've created your gmail account select create a blog and it will ask for a name and web address for your blog. It is useful to make the web address something short and easy to remember.
3. Next you will be asked to choose a template. There are a few different templates to choose from and you can customize them later if you feel like it. After you choose a template, your blog will be created and online. Go to "Customize Blog" and fill in the areas of the template as you see fit. Feel free to visit the Global Studies Club blog to see an example: BCCGSC.blogspot.com

From here you can post news, useful articles, whatever you feel is necessary for your blog. There are a ton of features on the blogger that you could explore to enhance your blog. Good Luck!