

Proposal for a Professional Website on Labor Militancy

1. Why is this topic significant for you right now?

Labor militancy is a critical and timely topic due to the resurgence of worker activism and union organizing in recent years. Across industries—from tech and healthcare to education and manufacturing—workers are increasingly mobilizing to demand fair wages, better working conditions, and greater equity in the workplace. This wave of labor activism reflects broader societal shifts, including growing economic inequality, the impact of automation, and the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, which exposed the vulnerabilities of essential workers.

For me, this topic is significant because it intersects with issues of social justice, economic power, and collective action. By exploring labor militancy, I aim to understand how workers are challenging systemic inequities and reshaping the future of work. Additionally, this project aligns with my academic and professional interests in labor history, social movements, and digital storytelling, providing an opportunity to contribute to ongoing conversations about worker empowerment.

2. Who might constitute a "research artifact" in your project (you will need three of them)?

To explore labor militancy, I will focus on three key "research artifacts" that represent different facets of worker activism:

1. **The Amazon Labor Union (ALU):** The ALU's successful unionization effort at the JFK8 warehouse in Staten Island, New York, in 2022 marked a historic victory for labor organizing in the tech and logistics sectors. Studying the ALU's strategies, challenges, and leadership (particularly figures like Chris Smalls) will provide insights into how workers are organizing in the face of corporate resistance.
2. **The Starbucks Workers United Campaign:** This nationwide movement to unionize Starbucks stores has mobilized thousands of baristas and shift supervisors. By examining the campaign's grassroots tactics, social media presence, and the role of young workers, I can analyze how labor militancy is evolving in the service industry.
3. **The United Auto Workers (UAW) Strike of 2023:** The UAW's strike against the "Big Three" automakers (Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis) highlighted the growing demand for fair wages, job security, and a just transition to electric vehicle production. This artifact will allow me to explore the intersection of labor militancy, environmental sustainability, and technological change.

These artifacts represent diverse industries, worker demographics, and organizing strategies, offering a comprehensive view of contemporary labor militancy.

3. What are you hoping to learn about this topic between now and the end of this semester?

By the end of the semester, I hope to achieve the following learning objectives:

- **Understand the Historical Context:** I aim to situate contemporary labor militancy within the broader history of labor movements, identifying continuities and shifts in tactics, goals, and challenges.

- **Analyze Organizing Strategies:** I want to explore how modern labor movements leverage digital tools, social media, and community organizing to build solidarity and achieve their goals.
- **Explore Intersectionality:** I hope to investigate how issues of race, gender, and class intersect within labor militancy, particularly in movements led by marginalized workers.
- **Assess Impact:** I aim to evaluate the short- and long-term impacts of recent labor actions on workers' rights, corporate practices, and public policy.
- **Develop Digital Storytelling Skills:** Through the creation of a professional website, I will learn how to present complex research in an accessible and engaging format, using multimedia elements such as timelines, info graphics, and interviews.

By achieving these goals, I hope to contribute to a deeper understanding of labor militancy and its significance in shaping the future of work and social justice. The website will serve as a resource for scholars, activists, and the general public, fostering dialogue and awareness about the power of collective action.