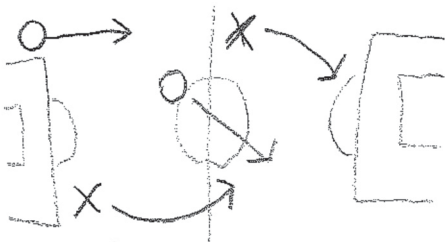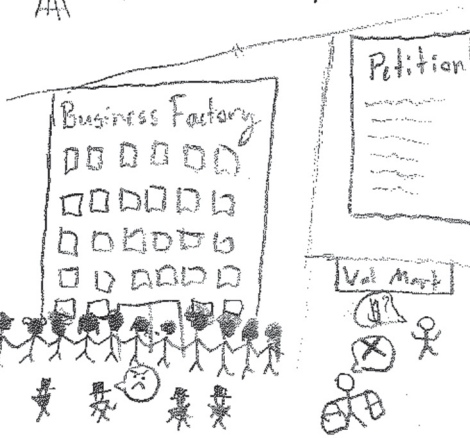# How to Organize Hampshire

#2 Tactics

AKA: what to do

by Violet Henriques

When taking action you have a set of tools laid out before you. These are things like: protest, non-compliance, or blockades. These tools are called **Tactics**.

Tactics are used in specific situations and all have different intended effects. Therefore, it is your job to choose tactics that match your situation.

Colleges are unique and bizarre places, and Hampshire is a unique and bizarre college. As a result, the tactics that work here do not work everywhere and the tactics that work in other contexts don't nessisarily work here.

Your environment is the biggest part of what determines what tactics work. What follows are a series of tactics that (I believe) will be effective at Hampshire (though this is far from an exhaustive list).

1. Refusal to Pay

This is a crazy tactic to put here considering that Hampshire almost closed in 2019, but it's very simple and powerful. Hampshire is a tuition dependent institution that runs a $2m dollar deficit every year (a large part of the president's job is simply fundraising). Therefore if even 5% of students refuse to pay it's a big threat to Hampshire, which means the school might cave to demands. It also might decide to close for real so be cautious with this one...

2. Class Strike

If you don't like your classes, just don't go. You pay to be here. You could also use this to kill CEL. If every student refused to fill out CEL it just might die.

3. All Class Strike
This is different because every student stops going to every class. I'm really excited to pull this stunt in combination with tactic 5 because it could destroy the foundations of school if we pull it off successfully!

4. Teach-In
This one is complicated because it could kind of be anything. If you want to raise awareness of a social issue do a teach in, if you want to get together with other students do a teach-in, if you just want to learn about something collaboratively do a teach-in. People here complain about bad classes, if that's you join me in putting our money where our mouth is by **teaching each other.**

5. Total Class Replacement

Dude this one is batshit insane but **hear me out**. We could just get rid of classes and teach workshops led by us students. I am certainly biased because I love teaching, but I do truly believe that we all have things to teach to and learn from each other and that <u>we don't need faculty or school to force us to learn</u>. We will become more capable and authentic people with help from each other, not because of a school!

School is a tool that we can and should outgrow. After all, if we graduate before outgrowing it we will surely fall flat on our faces in the 'real world'. <u>But if we **outgrow school while we still have it** we can fall back on school when we fail!</u>

Slow Systemic Change *
If you want to change things within the system here is a guide:
i. Make a clear goal, what do you want to change and what do you want to see instead?
ii. Figure out who is responsible for how things are, are they even still here? Are they even a real person or is the current system entirely accidental?
iii. Do they want things to change? If yes, offer to do their job for them so that you will be the one to choose how things change, if no find someone who can overrule them.
iv. What if no one can overrule them? You are fucked mi amor. Truly fucked. At this point you might want to consider...
6. Collective Action
Don't be alone. Make friends!

*Slow System Change is more of a strategy than a tactic...

If you really want to try to go through admin to get things done you ought to learn how to negotiate!

I'll make a separate zine series or write a librino about negotiating soon. ♥

In the meantime you may want to ask someone from Ethan's negotiation class for help negotiating.

There is a book by Gene Sharp called <u>The Methods of Nonviolent Action</u>. If you want more tactics, he's got 198 of them but their more applicable to countries than colleges.