Characteristics of Some Typical Social Change Tactics

Type of Activity	Politi-cally Based?	Organ-ized?	Mass Partici-pation?	Consis-tent w/ Good Society?	Chal-lenges Oppo-nents?	Direct?	Sends Clear Message?	Sends Loud, Public Message?	Builds Democ-racy?
Apathy, Ignorance	No	No	—	No	No	—	No	No	No
Utopian Withdrawal	Yes	Yes	No	Maybe	No	No	Maybe	No	No
Right Living	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Maybe
Personal Counseling	Maybe	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Vandalism	Maybe	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Riots, Looting	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Sabotage	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	No	Yes	Yes	Maybe	No	No
Terrorism, Assassination	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	No
Guerrilla Warfare	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	No
Advertising	Yes	Yes	No	Maybe	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Lobbying Authorities	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Maybe
Electoral Campaigns	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Maybe	Yes	Maybe
Lawsuits	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Maybe
Personal Persuasion	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Public Speaking	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes
Street Theater	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rallies, Pickets, Marches	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Boycotts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Strikes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sit-ins, Blockades	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

NOTES:
• **Politically Based?**: Are participants politically aware and savvy, and does the activity grow out of this awareness (rather than being based mostly on raw anger, hatred, prejudice, or fear)?
• **Organized?**: Is the activity highly organized and coordinated (rather than unplanned and undirected)?
• **Mass Participation?**: Does the activity involve large numbers of people and encourage bottom-up organization (rather than involving just a few activists and encouraging top-down organization)?
• **Consistent w/ Good Society?**: Is the activity consistent with a good society?
• **Challenges Opponents?**: Does the activity challenge powerful opponents and force them to respond?
• **Direct?**: Do participants directly bring about change (rather than appealing through others)?
• **Sends Clear Message?**: Does the activity convey a clear political message that might persuade other people?
• **Sends Loud, Public Message?**: Does the activity convey a message loudly and widely so that other people will hear it?
• **Builds Democracy?**: Does the activity encourage people to get involved? Does it give them the power to make decisions? Does it encourage them to think for themselves?

The **Yes** cells are shaded to make the patterns of characteristics more visible.

Source: This is Figure 7.5, p. 137 of ***Inciting Democracy: A Practical Proposal for Creating a Good Society*** (SpringForward Press, 2001, HN65 .S38 2001, <http://www.springforwardpress.com>) by Randy Schutt, P.O. Box 608867, Cleveland, OH 44108 <http://www.vernalproject.org>. This figure was inspired by and partially derived from Martin Oppenheimer, ***The Urban Guerrilla*** (Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1969, JC491 .O6), pp. 30–33.