

READING

How to be an activist

Finding ways to make a difference by using your passion brings joy and purpose into your work. Break free from the traditional tactics of activism and evaluate your skill set¹, as well as the unique and fresh perspective you could bring to the movement. Ask yourself “What makes me feel alive?” Put your passion into a cause you want to put energy toward, and be creative with your solutions, meetings, events and projects.

However serious or mature I may appear to be in front of the UN or while giving a TedTalk², I’m still just a 17-year-old kid trying to make a difference, while having a hell of a³ good time doing it. The events (...) people most want to be a part of are the ones that are different, outside the box⁴, innovative, creative, and fun. Not everyone is an outspoken⁵ leader, a frontline fighter wanting to risk arrest, or even a skilled organizer, but everyone has a part to play, no matter how small it is. We can all be leaders in our own ways. I’ve learned that no matter your age, you’ve got to have fun and be inspired by the work you do. Transforming your passion into action is one of the best ways I’ve found to avoid burnout and feeling overwhelmed⁶ by the movement.

So write songs, design apps, build social media platforms, plant seeds, grow gardens, paint murals, and make the medicine the world needs. We need every piece and there is something special within you.

Xiuhtezcatl Martinez, Justin Spitzman, *We Rise*, 2017

1. skill set (n.) = competences
2. TedTalk (n.) = influential videos from expert speakers
3. hell of a (informal) (exp.) = really
4. outside the box (exp.) = very original
5. outspoken (adj.): *franc(he)*
6. overwhelmed (adj.): *dépassé(e)*

METHODS

Before you read :

What type of document is it ? When was it written ? Who wrote it ?

Read the title

What can you deduce ?

1st reading :

What did you understand globally ?

2nd reading :

give a title to each paragraph

Use the method « rendre compte d'un document écrit » to explain what this document is about.