



# NEW BEDFORD FISHING HERITAGE CENTER

## Quick Write Activity- Labor Unrest

**Activity Overview:** Help students *make connections between the present and the past* by having them do a *Quick Write* (a short, semi structured writing exercise where students are encouraged to keep their pen on the page for the full five minutes and write without editing).

**Grades:** This activity was created for students in middle or high school and should be adjusted accordingly.

**Background Information:** For more information about the 1986-1986 New Bedford fishermen's strike, read the ["Background Information" document](#).

### Activity Directions:

- This activity works well as part of a lesson on labor unions and New Bedford history. Students can first look through the "Labor Unrest" section of the [Changing Way of Life Digital Exhibit](#).
- Say: In this section you'll hear from people who were really angry about the way they were being treated. I want you to take a minute to think about a time that you were angry about something or felt like you, someone you loved, or someone in the broader world was being treated unfairly.
- Have students write about that memory using the following prompting questions.
  - Did you do anything? Why or why not?
  - If you did something, what did you do?
  - How did people react?
  - What was the outcome of your actions?
- Remind students not to worry about spelling/grammar and to keep their pen on the paper the whole time.
- If you have time you can do a share out: Start by sharing your own quick write and then have students select a piece of their quick write to share.

### Activity Created by:

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