



NEW BEDFORD FISHING HERITAGE CENTER

Take a Stand Activity

Activity Overview: Help students evaluate the pros and cons of various protest tactics and take on someone else's perspective/point of view by having them **Take A Stand**.

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](#).
- Talk about how some people went on strike and some people didn't. Have students listen to the audio clips and pick out some of the reasons people decided to go on strike. Then have students brainstorm some of the reasons people might have decided not to go on strike, using chart paper to record people's contributions. Mention that today many fish packers and cutters are undocumented, so instead of going on strike (and potentially attracting police attention), they worked with non-profit organizations to write a letter to their employers stating their grievances and filed a law suit.
- Then have students answer the question: Would you have gone on strike if you'd been a fisherman during the 1980s? Why or why not? Have them stand on 1 side or the other side of the room to indicate their answer and get their bodies moving! Ask someone from each side to explain their reasoning, citing something they know about the strike from the audio and photos they investigated

Activity created by:

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