

PROTEST DESIGN

PROVOCATION 01

due 19 feb 2025

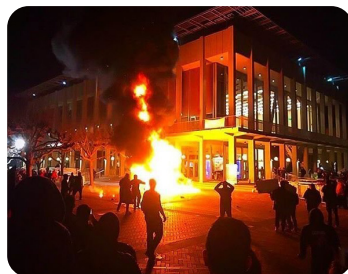
If you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have a moral obligation to do something about it. – John Lewis

Equity, poverty, human rights, civil rights, racial inequality, gender inequality, lack of transparency, “alternate facts”, economic divide, immigrant rights, voters’ rights – now more than ever is the time to protest – to make a statement or action expressing disapproval of or objection to something. As humanists, scientists, students, and community members, let us deliver a message. As designers, let us rethink, reinterpret, and empower the medium of the protest. Protests come in all shapes and sizes. In fact, they vary widely in their scale, longevity, location, context, and medium of delivery. Protests often have a range of elements from signage, to chants, to logos, songs, hashtags, and iconography. As designers, you will need to think carefully about all of these elements in designing a protest that is successful. In fact, even success takes many forms – from overturning a law, electing an official, or creating a neighborhood crosswalk. Protests can engage many different senses – sounds, visual design, interactive elements, clothing, social media, and slogans. As designers, you must think carefully about all of these opportunities.

In this provocation, you will be designing and prototyping a novel protest object. This could be an improvement on an existing artifact within the landscape of a protest or the creation of an entirely new one. For your site of investigation, you are free to choose any protest or movement (or create your own)! It should be an issue that is of current concern – it can be vast and global or immediate and local.



Start by taking note of the activities, images, and visuals within current protests. Interview and interact with the individuals within a protest or movement. You may take the standpoint of any participant within the scope of the protest as your primary user. As detailed previously, you may take an existing object and reimagine and redesign it with new interactivity as informed by your subject interviews, or you may create an entirely novel protest artifact. Your new object should be motivated by the cultural activities of the protest and provide a new opportunity within that landscape. Your final design may also incorporate some audio or sound component. You should think about how simply adding or altering audio feedback or interactivity to an existing object that currently has little or no audio or interactivity may significantly change its purpose or experience completely.





You are encouraged (but not required) to include the following elements in your design:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| foamcore | buttons/knobs/sensors |
| laser cut cardboard, wood, and/or acrylic | GPS |
| 3D printed designs and features | WiFi or networked |
| LEDs | fabric |
| motors | clothing |
| solenoids | screens... |

Your team will be required to deliver an 8 minute presentation communicating:

- documentation and images of your protest studies and investigation
- motivation for your design (why should we care?)
- a brief demo in class of your working prototype
- a brief video (2 min max) of your project and prototype operating in situ

You will need to hand in the following materials online via bCourses:

- a title for your project
- a single representative image (landscape at 1600:900 pixels jpg or png)
- one paragraph of text describing your project (max of 150 words)
- a stand alone video describing your project and showing it in use in situ (2 min max)
- design process documentation that includes
 - your observational documentation
 - intermediate designs, sketches, ideas
 - documentation describing the step by step making of the work
 - any code, STL, cut, or modeling files required to make the prototype



Grading:

- 40% Quality and originality of idea
- 25% Execution of object design and interactivity
- 15% Critique Presentation
- 10% Video
- 10% Documentation

The Revolution Will Be...Designed!

