

Protest Tips for Young Blacks

by VC Edwards

Below are essentials to know when protesting, to stay focused on the mission for equality!

1. **Disruptive behaviors have no place in a movement for equality.** Don't be fooled by anyone who encourages you to be disruptive—to start a fire, destroy property, or loot. Anyone who promises to pay you to commit a crime, is afraid to go to prison, but doesn't care if you face imprisonment. Evil people are afraid to face harm, but not afraid to provoke harm for others. Promises of payoffs to do criminal activity do not pay because and the person that does the crime is held guilty, even if someone else (even an adult) suggested the activity. If you are approached by anyone to commit a crime, an easy response by you can be, "That's not what we are about." A statement of truth quickly shames an offender and allows you to maintain your power and integrity. Stay amongst mature, responsible protestors that you know (parents, activists), who are supervising young people in the crowd of protestors, and who are listening and watching for any suspicious conduct, to prevent potential unlawful activity, which could tarnish the black agenda.
2. **Be conscious of what is going on around you.** Not only should protestors videotape unlawful acts by police (as the public does), but protestors should videotape wrongdoings, igniting fires or destroying property. Even though, we are wearing masks in the pandemic, be leery of people who are covered up excessively from head to toe, to hide their identity. Isolate from such people, so you are not associated with their misconduct, and be quick to videotape them, if possible, from a safe distance when they are making suspect moves.
3. **Peaceful protests occur in the light.** Young people should not be a part of activity after dark, because evil doers rely on the night to engage in destructive and insidious behavior, when it is harder to be seen. Whatever can't be seen, gets blamed on protestors. There is noting a peaceful protest needs to do at night.
4. **Some protestors have a different agenda.** Even though, people of all backgrounds are protesting for black equality, some protestors are tagging on other causes. Some protestors are including signs to support other agendas in the protests against black injustice. Everyone can support all causes, but all causes cannot be mixed together. Equality for blacks has been delayed for 400 years in this country, which is, needless to say, an agenda that doesn't need

any distractions or side agendas. Do not co-sign onto other agendas, at this time, because it can affect the long-awaited fundamental right of blacks to attain equality. No other agenda can be addressed within the movement for black equality because the black experience is different than any other injustice in America. A confused message or watered-down agenda could result in another deferment, when this movement, at this time, is capable of advancing equality that has never been seen before by blacks in America.

5. **Know the purpose of the protest.** In order protest for black equality, do your homework. Before protesting, research any local protest you are considering. Find out who it is headed by, not just Black Lives Matter, which is used as a topic by most protestors. (There have been protests in the past and even in recent months that are organized by radical groups, in the name of black causes, to portray black protestors as violent and uncivilized.) While the protests now, are largely peaceful, never protest without educating yourself of the local organizer, the mission of that organization, and the specific purpose of that protest. Protests without a clear and noble agenda can be a waste of time, or worst, they can be dangerous. Select protests that allow you to stand up for your concerns, and turn down protests that have a different agenda. Protests that are focused on an honorable mission can facilitate great change!
6. **Your appearance and behavior will make history.** When you protest, you don't want to be seen as a follower of ratchet, disrespectful celebrities. Do not emulate a lifestyle of disrespect, rudeness and loudness. Do not dress disrespectful—keep you pants above your waist, do not take your shirt off, and do not dress provocative. Be orderly and you will go down in history for being a part of a movement that advanced the entire black race.
7. **Protesting is not an end, but a path to change.** The objective of protest is to get to a place where you no longer need to protest, when your requests have been granted. As you protest in the day, plan and prepare for your future in the evening, to be career-ready for new positions that will be opened for blacks to get a fair share. While you protest, you also want to plan and prepare what you will do when the protests end.
8. **Protests do not accomplish everything.** Protests have one agenda, which is to bring about awareness. An essential step that is essential in protest is to REGISTER TO VOTE, so you can vote for people, who will create real change in the system, through legislation.

Registering NOW to vote in the next election is simply filling out a form (online or through the mail) and takes only a few minutes. Learn all you can about the candidates who are running for elections, which will affect the decisions that are made on your behalf.

9. **This time is different.** The way you can determine whether a person is for the cause of black equality, or not, is whether they are 100% peaceful. Any protesting that is not peaceful distracts from the cause for equality for blacks. Destroying statues is not going to establish equality for anyone. Statues should not be torn down by protestors, but protestors should request local governments to remove statues of racists, and symbols of hatred and oppression. If you want to send a message to businesses that discriminate, don't buy their products. Looting and stealing their merchandize sends a message that you are a problem, not them. Keep your eye on the objective, which is attaining equality, because it is closer than it has ever been, and we will achieve it, this time!

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