

Overview

This lesson offers a collection of short primary source excerpts and questions for consideration in a discussion or essay.

Length

Flexible, depending on number of documents used

Materials

- Primary Source Collection (below)
- [The Changing Response to AIDS \(World101\)](#)

Instructional Plan

1. Have students read the document excerpts and consider one or more of the following questions:
 - a. What kind of activism have people with AIDS engaged in?
 - b. What kinds of struggles have people with AIDS faced?
 - c. How did activists change popular opinions, influence government policy, and improve the lives of people with AIDS?
2. Have students conduct an in-class discussion or write an essay responding to one of the questions.

Primary Documents on AIDS

Document A

The People With AIDS Advisory Committee, [The Denver Principles](#), adopted 1983

We condemn attempts to label us as “victims,” a term which implies defeat, and we are only occasionally “patients,” a term which implies passivity, helplessness, and dependence upon the care of others. We are “People With AIDS.”

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL PEOPLE

1. Support us in our struggle against those who would fire us from our jobs, evict us from our homes, refuse to touch us or separate us from our loved ones, our community or our peers, since available evidence does not support the view that AIDS can be spread by casual, social contact.
2. Not scapegoat people with AIDS, blame us for the epidemic or generalize about our lifestyles.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS

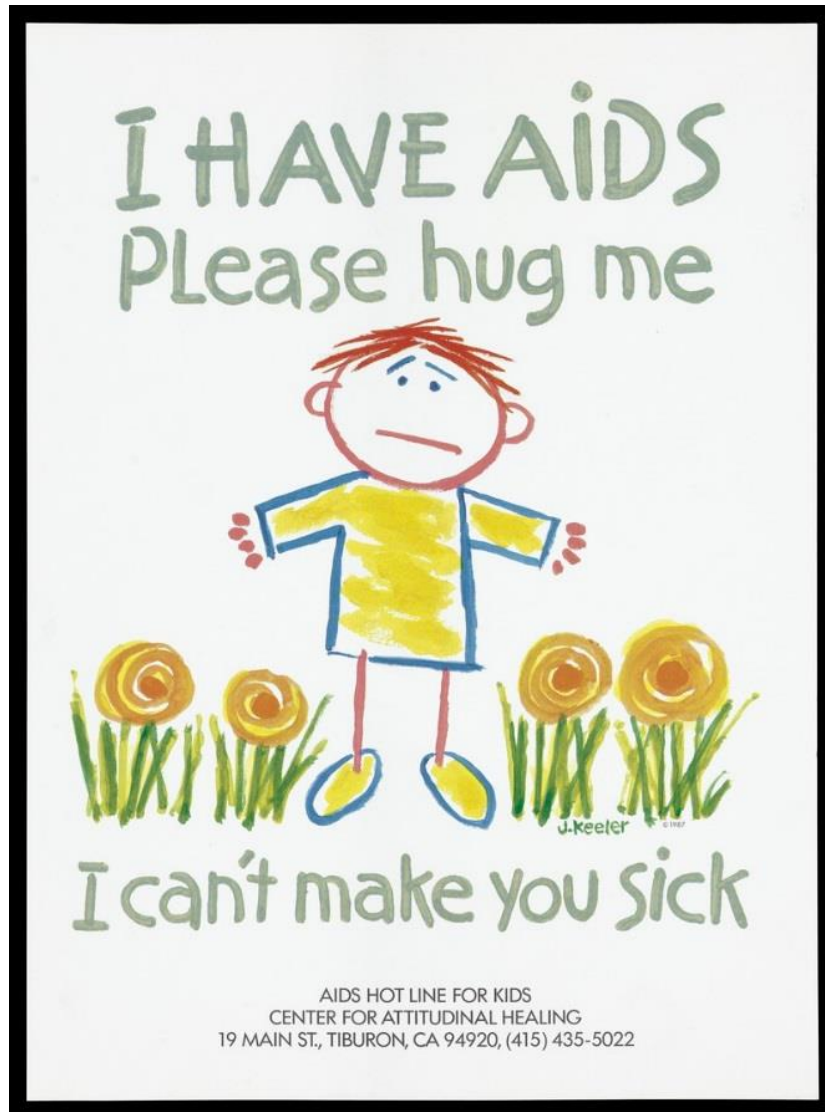
1. Form caucuses to choose their own representatives, to deal with the media, to choose their own agenda and to plan their own strategies.
2. Be involved at every level of decision-making and specifically serve on the boards of directors of provider organizations.
3. Be included in all AIDS forums with equal credibility as other participants, to share their own experiences and knowledge.
4. Substitute low-risk sexual behaviors for those which could endanger themselves or their partners; we feel people with AIDS have an ethical responsibility to inform their potential sexual partners of their health status.

RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH AIDS

1. To as full and satisfying sexual and emotional lives as anyone else.
2. To quality medical treatment and quality social service provision without discrimination of any form including sexual orientation, gender, diagnosis, economic status or race.
3. To full explanations of all medical procedures and risks, to choose or refuse their treatment modalities, to refuse to participate in research without jeopardizing their treatment and to make informed decisions about their lives.
4. To privacy, to confidentiality of medical records, to human respect and to choose who their significant others are.
5. To die—and to LIVE—in dignity.

Document B

J. Keeler, the Center for Attitudinal Healing, [Poster](#), 1987

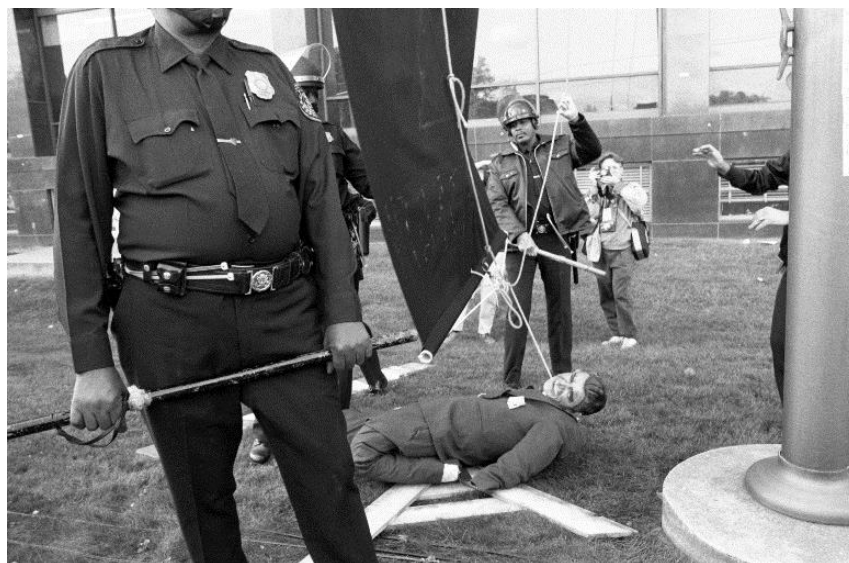


Source: Center for Attitudinal Healing via Wellcome Collection under [CC BY-NC 4.0](#).

AIDS Primary Sources

Document C

ACT UP Protest at Food and Drug Administration, October 11, 1988



Protesters prepare to hang an effigy of President Ronald Regan at a protest organized by AIDS activist group AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) at the headquarters of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on October 11, 1988, in Rockville, Maryland. The action, called SEIZE CONTROL OF THE FDA, by the group, shut down the FDA for the day. Source: Catherine McGann/Getty Images.

AIDS Primary Sources

Document D

ACT UP Demonstration on the Lawn of Building 1 of the National Institutes of Health, May 21, 1990



A mass “die-in” on the lawn of Building 1 closed the demonstration as ranks of uniformed officers, some on horseback, protected National Institutes of Health (NIH) headquarters during the Storm the NIH demonstration on May 21, 1990.

Source: NIH via Flickr.

Document E

ACT UP Manchester, Newspaper Clippings, 1991

COMMUNITY LEADERS

ACT UP MANCHESTER will not tolerate ignorant or bigoted views concerning HIV and AIDS from local MPs counsellors or other community leaders.



Act-Up plagues Tory MP

Manchester Act-Up presented Conservative MP Den Dover with a symbolic condom when they made a protest visit to his constituency surgery, St Mary's Church (last Nov.).

Den Dover is also a sponsor of the Conservative Family Campaign which recently argued that people with HIV and AIDS should be denied the right to conditional employment, support and proper medical care.

When challenged, Mr Dover apologised to the gay community for any misunderstandings. He recently apologised on TV that AIDS was a "gay plague" and implored to "wake up that world wide, Aids, has mainly attacked heterosexuals."

Act-Up said the only way forward in the AIDS crisis is compassion and financial commitment. "The motto for Chasler's Town Hall is 'Be aware', and this is exactly what we want" said a spokesman.

DEN DOVER, M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

ACT UP MANCHESTER demand:

- Community leaders understand the facts concerning HIV and AIDS infection.
- Community leaders understand the problems and fears that people with HIV and AIDS have.
- Community leaders work to help bring an end to the AIDS crisis and ease the problems for people with HIV or AIDS.

CHRIS BUTLER, M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Police throw out Aids demo group

On Sat 23 February 1991 13 members of Act-Up Manchester disrupted the parliamentary surgery of Chris Butler MP for Warrington South. This action was in answer to the introduction of the new Inheritance Tax which will mean that anyone aged 65 or over will be liable for up to six years' worth of inheritance tax. The new tax is being introduced in a phased way for only persons over 65 in the first year. Act-Up Manchester has the aim of ending this tax, and has been successful in ending it in several other areas.

The group had been told by Butler with a large symbolic cheque and publicly. After 20 minutes of chanting and chanting Mr Butler refused to speak to any members of Act-Up who were eventually ejected by the police. No arrests were made.



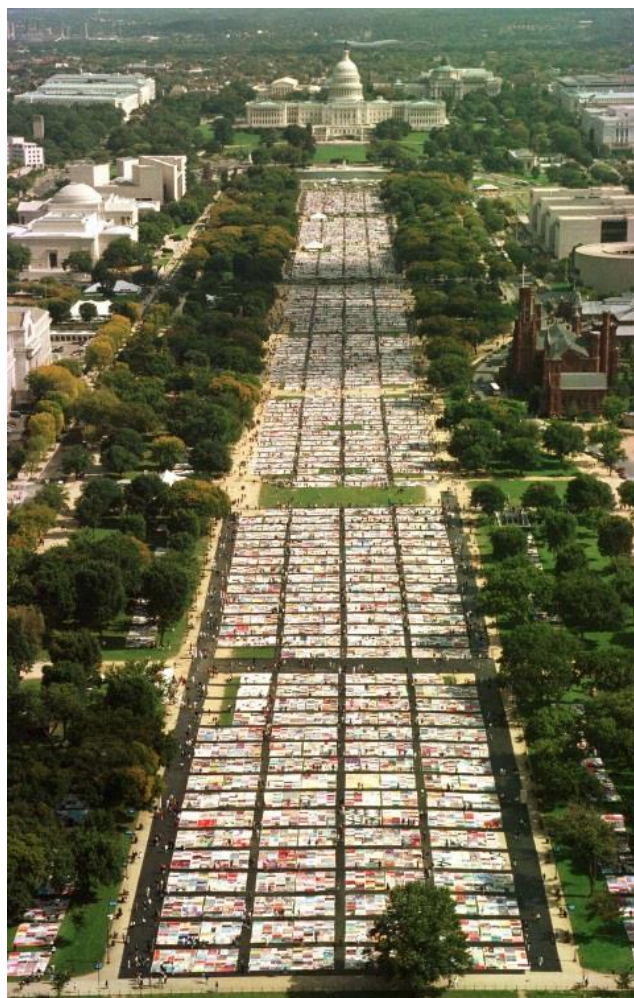
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Source: ACT UP Manchester via Wellcome Collection under [CC BY-NC 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/).

AIDS Primary Sources

Document F

The AIDS Quilt, Shown in Washington, DC, October 11, 1996



The mile-long AIDS Memorial Quilt is displayed on the National Mall in front of the U.S. Capitol, on October 11, 1996. The showing of the quilt, containing more than thirty-seven thousand panels for people who have died of the virus, highlighted a weekend of activities to heighten AIDS awareness. Source: Reuters.

Document G

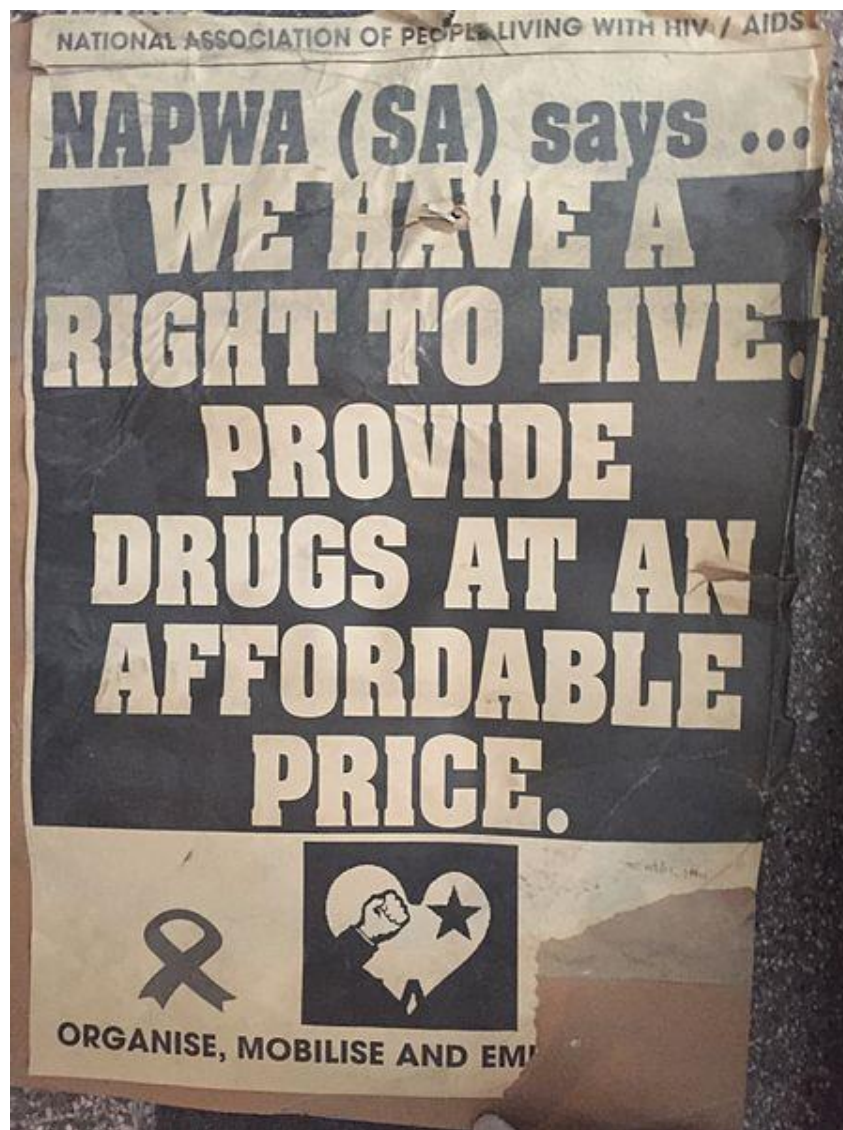
Protest in India, April 10, 2013.



Demonstrators hold a rally in New Delhi, India, on April 10, 2013, to protest a potential free trade agreement between the European Union and India that could restrict exports of cheap anti-HIV medicines to developing countries. Source: Mansi Thapliyal/Reuters.

Document H

Poster From the Durban AIDS Conference, South Africa, 2016



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