

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.

AIDS Primary Sources

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.

AIDS Primary Sources

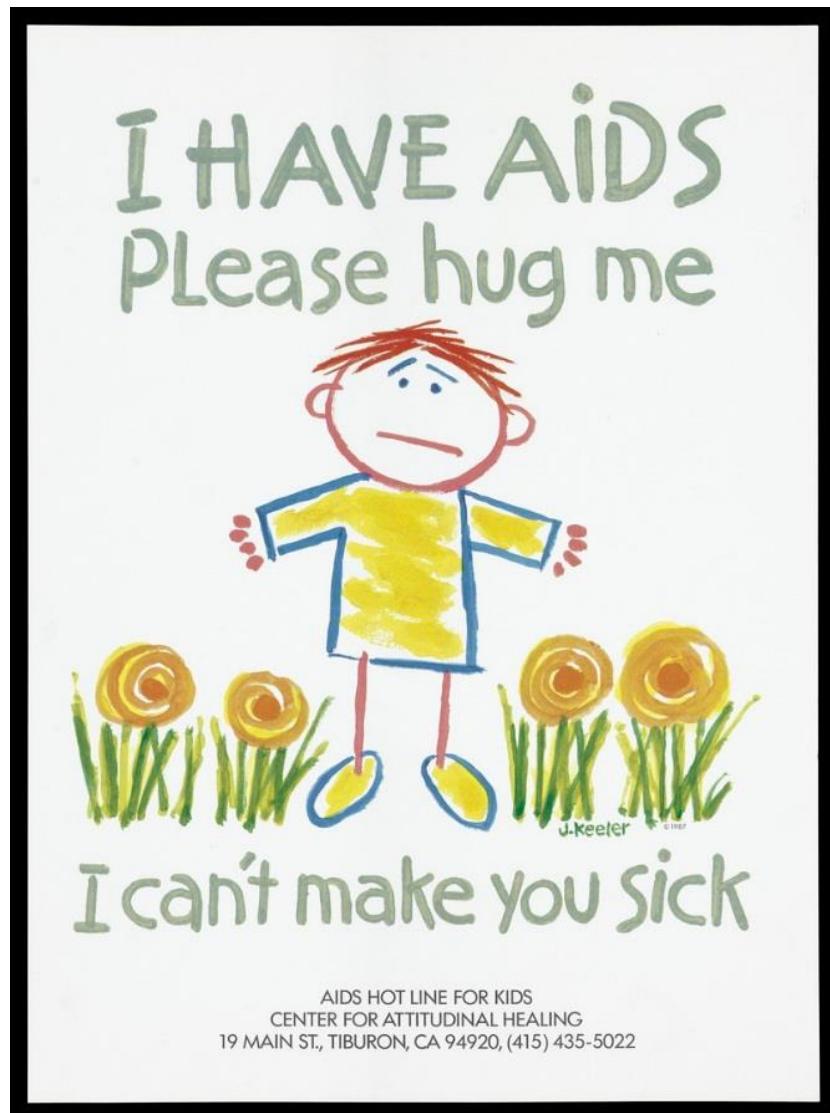
RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH AIDS

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.

AIDS Primary Sources

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.

AIDS Primary Sources

Document E

ACT UP Manchester, Newspaper Clippings, 1991

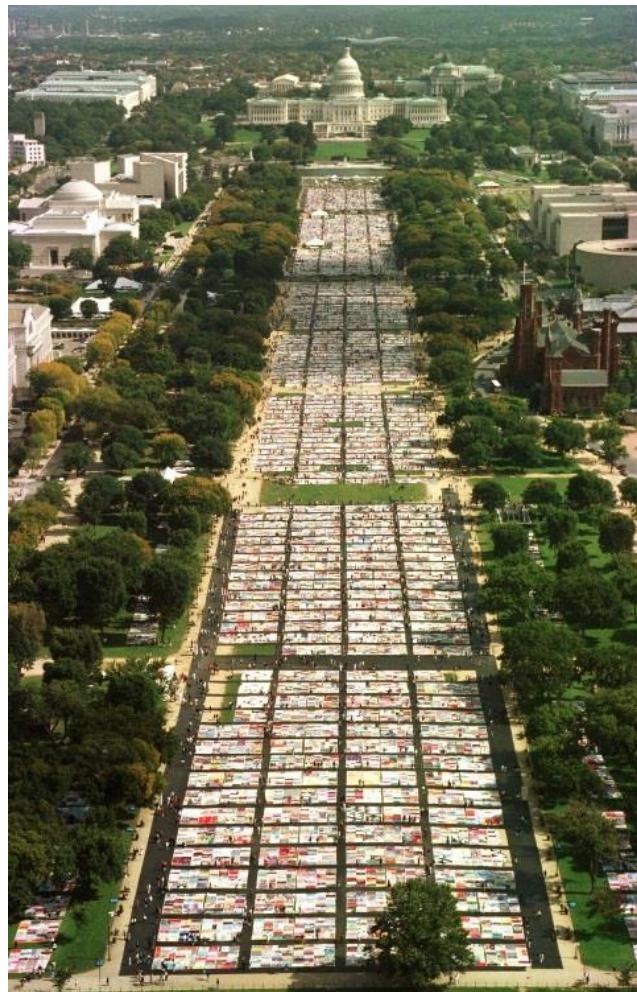


Source: ACT UP Manchester via Wellcome Collection under [CC BY-NC 4.0](#).

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.

AIDS Primary Sources

Document G

Protest in India, April 10, 2013.



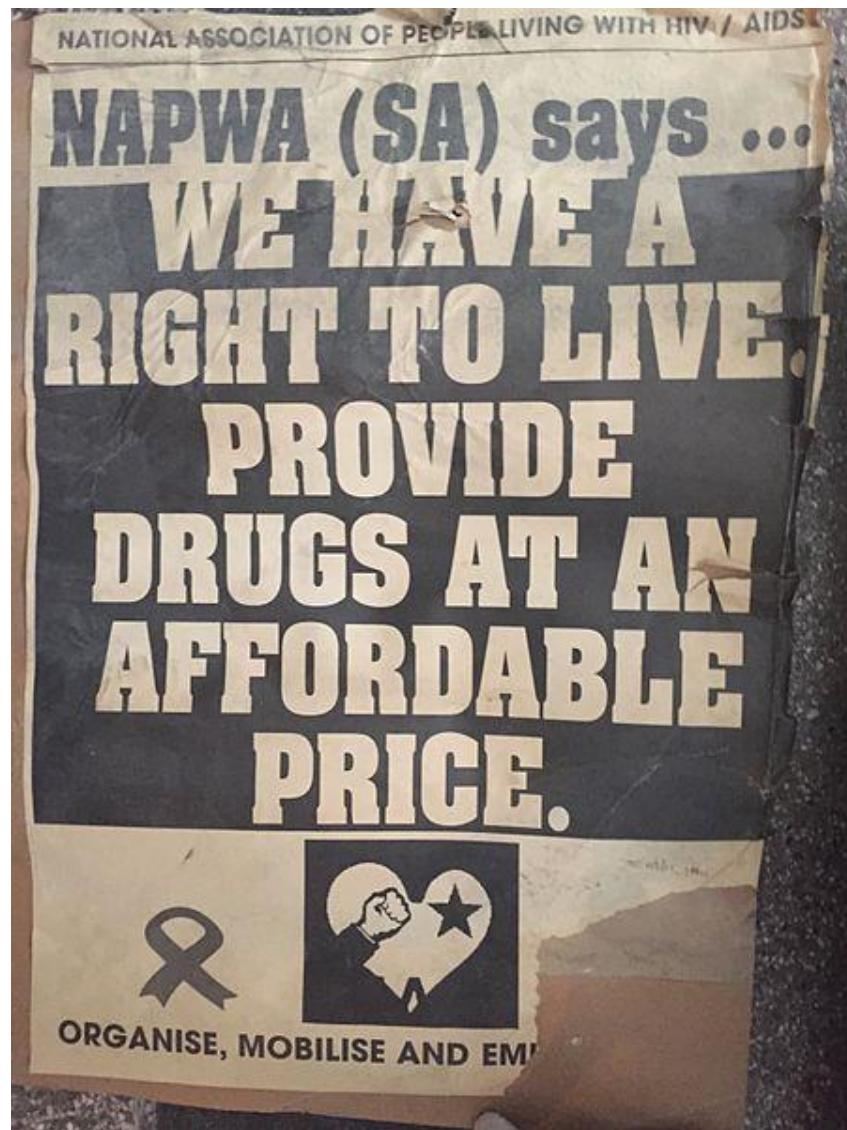
Demonstrators hold a rally in New Delhi, India, on April 10, 2013, to protest a potential free trade agreement between the European Union and India that could restrict exports of cheap anti-HIV medicines to developing countries.

Source: Mansi Thapliyal/Reuters.

AIDS Primary Sources

Document H

Poster From the Durban AIDS Conference, South Africa, 2016



Source: Christian Michelides via Wikimedia Commons under [CC BY-SA 4.0](#).