

EFFECTIVE ACTIVISM CHEAT SHEET BY HUMAN EARTH ANIMAL LIBERATION

To be effective and avoid hypocrisy you need to ask and answer the following questions about yourself, your cause(s), and your choice of actions. Those who fail to do this do not succeed in creating progress or change.

1. Are you exposing existing criminal and/or civil regulatory violations? Yes or No

If the answer is yes, then you do not need to seek legislation to address the issue and shouldn't report to Congress (State or Federal). You report evidence of crime or regulatory violations to the appropriate law enforcement or regulatory agency. And, where you are not a direct victim of the violation you will not be kept in the loop regarding any investigation that may result from your tip to enforcement.

If the answer is no, then you will want to lobby congress (state and federal) or file a ballot initiative to change the laws and prohibit a practice that is currently legal that you wish to be illegal or unlawful. You will need to understand that many see prohibitions as restricting freedom or arguable constitutional liberties including those covered by the 10th amendment.

2. How and why are you exposing criminal and/or civil regulatory violations?

If you choose to run a website or do information campaigns to raise awareness that criminal and civil violations exist and have sufficient evidence to provide to the public to be aware of that fact and assist in their due diligence by providing additional information from reliable sources to inform the public then you might be a consumer advocate. And, if you are particularly passionate or appear biased because of your socio-political perspective then reporting the violations as an activist/advocate can be enough to create reasonable doubt in some cases since from some perspectives you have an agenda. And, then the proper authorities may not investigate finding they need an independent direct victim to report or more evidence than your word or passionate protest on which to base an investigation of alleged criminal or civil misconduct.

So, with public information campaigns to raise awareness you need to know how and why so there is a point to it. And, with HEAL, we get tips from consumer complaints regarding academic/healthcare fraud evidenced by misleading marketing, lack of proper licensing/accreditation, and other indicators. And, we have a watch-list of entities that match warning signs of criminal/civil misconduct and publish those findings to our site to help inform the public where the public exercises due diligence and finds our information to be useful or helpful in the event an entity is too big to fail or has not been properly sued or reported to authorities for violations. We also encourage victims of crime and civil violations to report those to the proper authorities or file suit in a timely fashion.

3. How much of your time is spent on emotional exploration and fundraising?

If most of your efforts are emotional appeals for the sake of raising funds that are used to organize more fundraising events then you are likely a narcissist and/or in a cult run by one that is masquerading as a nonprofit or activist collective or even political party.

4. Do you address the issue(s) yourself directly?

If you oppose factory farming, then the options are to create a competing model that addresses animal welfare concerns (though you may be sued by environmentalists for allowing your stock to graze freely or fail to contain waste to their environmental standards) or take PETA's approach which is to say the problem of sustaining animal life humanely is unsolvable and it is more humane if they never exist to begin with and/or go extinct. Reducing consumption does not reduce animal suffering it only arguably reduces the number of animals in existence because with reduced demand you have reduced production which is true for most commodities unless subsidized by the government because we all need to eat therefore we all contribute to food production to make sure there is plenty. So, going vegan doesn't solve it unless you can manipulate, coerce, or browbeat the entire planet to be vegan and then the competition for vegetation will result in extinction of many nonhuman species.

Direct service and care such as providing shelter, clothing, food, necessities, and/or services to the misfortunate (regardless if homeless shelter or animal shelter) addresses the issue(s) you care about directly. And, if you have humane considerations regarding the care or service provided to misfortunate humans and nonhuman animals, then exercise due diligence before donating by volunteering for a while first to see if you want to support their efforts financially having been impressed with what they actually do to address the issue.

Now, you know how to effectively create change and have a great place to start. Feel free to print this and hand it to any "activist" that approaches you where you feel it is more emotional than reasonable and disrespectful of your time and dignity in the manner in which you've been approached. And, if they refuse to read it or are dismissive, return the favor.

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