THE ART OF PROTEST: POSTER ART

MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM OF ART
THE ART OF PROTEST:
ARTISTS AND NON-ARTISTS HAVE CREATED POSTERS AND PROTEST SIGNS ALIKE TO ENACT CHANGE AND RESPOND TO SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES LIKE ANTI-WAR EFFORTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS CAUSES.
In this diptych (2-panel) print by Ligon, the left side is a print of his 1988 painting, Untitled (I Am A Man). The right panel is a print with overlay annotations by the painting conservator.

This painting was a reproduction of a protest sign carried by sanitation workers during the Memphis Sanitation Workers' Strike of 1968.
The Memphis Sanitation Workers' Strike (spring of 1968) began after the city failed to respond to two sanitation workers' (Echol Cole and Robert Walker) deaths by a malfunctioning truck.

Striking members of Memphis Local 1733 hold signs whose slogan symbolized the sanitation workers' 1968 campaign. via Walter P. Reuther Library/Wayne State University
Today, we challenge you to make an art poster!

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A PIECE OF PAPER, CARDBOARD, OR POSTER BOARD (BIG OR SMALL)
- GLUE OR TAPE
- SCISSORS
- A DRAWING UTENSIL
- MAGAZINES, CATALOGS, PHOTOS, OR CONSTRUCTION PAPER TO CUT UP (OPTIONAL)
BEFORE YOU CREATE, THINK:
WHAT WILL YOU BE AN ACTIVIST FOR?

THE COMMON GOAL
Use your voice to connect to an idea or a larger community!

WHAT IS YOUR MESSAGE?
Will you inspire with something beautiful like the spring? Will you advocate for the well-being of your family, neighbor, or city?

HOW WILL YOU REACH PEOPLE?
What attention grabbing techniques will you use? How will your design connect to your idea?
IF YOUR VISION IS CLEAR, GET STARTED ON YOUR POSTER!

IF NOT, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING POSSIBILITIES. YOU COULD SHARE:

- AN ENCOURAGING QUOTE
- AN INSPIRING DRAWING OR PHOTO
- OR A HELPFUL REMINDER THAT CALLS PEOPLE TO ACTION
DESIGN TIPS

🌟 Think of symbols or colors that complement your idea!

🌟 Make small pencil sketches or color designs to plan your final piece!

🌟 Keep it simple! Less is more!
When you're done, tape your poster up where people will see it.

Display them in your window, an entryway, or even public spaces (if you get permission)!
POSTERS, LIKE MEMES, COMBINE IMAGES AND TEXT IN A COMPELLING WAY:)