Section 2: Resources

2A: Film and Video Resources

(a) Visioning Social Justice/Liberation


This is a film about the struggle of poor and working-class people all over the globe who must battle both large corporations and oppressive governments in order to survive and win basic human rights. Filmed in the streets of Mexico, Korea, Argentina, Palestine, Quebec City, and other locations all over the world, this is an emotional and very politicized look at glaring injustice and the emerging movements that seek to combat it.

*Healing the heart of America.* (1993). [videotape: 0:27]: Hope in the Cities/MRA Inc.

This documentary centered in Richmond, Virginia captures a conversation on race, reconciliation and responsibility for blacks and whites in that community.


An ex-convict turned counselor narrates about a camp that teaches tolerance to adolescents. Using encounter groups, role play, and other intensely emotional exercises, counselors create an environment that fosters dialogue and unity among the various racial groups.


This film, shot by 100 amateur camera operators, tells the story of the enormous street protests in Seattle, Washington in November 1999, against the World Trade Organization summit being held there. Protestors from all around came out in force to make their views known and stop the summit.


This film is designed as a companion film to *This is What Democracy Looks Like*, and is one of the first activist films to carefully explain how free trade operates. It does so from the perspective of the Mexican experience.

(b) Educating Oneself: Consciousness Raising/Education for Liberation; Critical Pedagogy

Investigates the burning of two black churches near Manning, South Carolina, by a young convert to the Ku Klux Klan. There are interviews with the victims, the perpetrators, their families, and people who live in the community transform a simple black and white news item into a complex account of racism, poverty, denial, repentance, and forgiveness.

Fundi: the story of Ella Baker (1986) [videotape: 0:36]. First Run, Icarus Films. NYC

By looking at the 1960s from the perspective of Baker, the "godmother of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee," FUNDI adds an essential understanding of the U.S. civil rights. It reveals the instrumental role that Ella Baker, a friend and advisor to Martin Luther King, played in shaping the American civil rights movement. The dynamic activist was affectionately known as the Fundi, a Swahili word for a person who passes skills from one generation to another.


Features three different programs used to provide upbeat and thought-provoking video that breaks down stereotypes of children with physical differences and promotes discussion to educate peers.


Profiles the impact of her life on fellow poets and activists.


Is an informative, entertaining primer on disability awareness.


This program examines the socioeconomic conditions in Watts that have made it an ongoing hotbed of violence. Community activists and long-time residents, along with younger residents, address the question of why it happened in 1965 and 1991—and what can be done so that it does not happen again.


Documents Kochiyama’s story from her days in an internment camp for Japanese Americans during World War II to living in Harlem and meeting Malcolm X. Her experience living in the camps and then moving to Harlem profoundly influenced her activist life. We also see her today speaking to young people about Mumia Abu-Jamal, David Wong and the prison industrial complex.

(c) Dialogues Across Difference

Color of fear (parts 1 and 2) (1995). [VHS: part 1 is 1 hr. 30 min., part 2 is 55 min.]: Stir Fry Productions, http://www.stirfryseminars.com
Eight North American men, two African American, two Latinos, two Asian American and two Caucasian were gathered for a dialogue about the state of race relations in America as seen through their eyes. The exchanges are sometimes dramatic, and put in plain light the pain caused by racism in North America.


Nine women and men have an honest and emotionally charged conversation about how racism and sexism have affected their lives and families.


Explores the nature of living in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and tells the story of a few children who dared to cross the lines to meet their neighbors. The seven children featured in the film offer a refreshing, human and sometimes humorous portrait of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.


Over the course of eight months, 64 women representing a cross-section of cultures, (Indigenous, African-American, Arab, Asian, European-American, Jewish, Latina, and Multiracial) came together to share their experience of racism in America. With uncommon courage, the women speak their hearts and minds about resistance, love, assimilation, standards of beauty, power, school experiences, and more.


This film chronicles the experiences of a diverse group of college students over the course of a 16-week intergroup dialogue program. They probe and confront each other about such issues as underrepresentation, the limitations of multiculturalism, social equity, affirmative action, and their own responsibilities for making a difference.

**(d) Taking Action and Creating Change**


A documentary about the inspiring youth-led movement against the growth of the prison industry in the U.S. After two years of collaborative campaigning with the Ella Baker Center and other groups the “Super-Jail for Kids” proposal in Alameda County, California, which was on the
verge of becoming one of the biggest per capita youth jails in the country, was derailed in part by the efforts of the BOOKS NOT BARS campaign.


A cautionary tale of urban policies gone wrong and a message of hope for all American cities. In 1985, African-American, Latino, Cape Verdean, and European-American residents in Roxbury, MA united to revitalize their community. The Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative went on to gain national recognition as residents fought to close down illegal dumps, gain unprecedented control of land from City Hall and create a comprehensive plan to rebuild the fabric of their community. Through the voices of committed residents, activists and city officials, this moving documentary shows how a Boston neighborhood was able to create and carry out its own agenda for change.


Shows constructive ways ordinary people around the world are addressing the impact of globalization on their communities, workplaces and environments. It weaves together video of local and transnational activities, interviews, music, and original video comics to show that, through grassroots organizing combined with mutual support around the world, ordinary people can empower themselves to deal with the global economy.


Katrina Browne tells the story of her forefathers, the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. This film challenges the myth that the South is solely responsible for slavery as Browne’s ancestors were northerners. The film follows Browne and nine fellow family members on a remarkable journey which brings them face-to-face with the history and legacy of privilege her family and New England received and continues to receive.


Welfare Warriors is a grassroots movement of single mothers on welfare. Through lobbying, public speaking, and direct action the women dispel the negative myths about welfare mothers, and assert that "an attack on poor women is an attack on all women."

(e) Alliances And Coalitions


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Morristown: In the air and the sun (shows how working-class people in Mexico and eastern Tennessee are caught in the throes of massive economic change, challenging their assumptions about work, family, nation and community) (2007). [DVD, 60 min.]: Appalshop, http://appalshop.org/

Filmed over an 8-year period in the mountains of east Tennessee, interior Mexico, and Ciudad Juarez, the film provides an authentic expression of workers who speak about their lives, work, disappointments, and hope. The documentary travels to the U.S.-Mexican border (El Paso-Juarez) to create deeper understanding of factory flight out of Morristown, and to interior Mexico to look at the forces that cause immigration. Morristown ends with a stunning union victory at a large poultry processing plant in Morristown, Tennessee.

Rebels with a cause (Former members of the Students for a Democratic Society share their stories) [DVD: 1 hr. 50 min.], http://www.sdsrebels.com

A feature documentary about the hopes, rebellions, and repression of the 1960s as told by members of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS).


An ex-convict turned counselor narrates about a camp that teaches tolerance to adolescents. Using encounter groups, role play, and other intensely emotional exercises, counselors create an environment that fosters dialogue and unity among the various racial groups.


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(f) Voices and The History/herstory of Social Movements


Demonstrates the enormous power of mutual support, culture, art, and ceremony in enabling a community to face tragedy, provide support to its members, and find a path to healing.


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Continues the previous story of Peter Gwazdauskas, *Educating Peter*, by providing a more in-depth documentation of Peter confronting depression, loneliness and the limitations of his disability. It also shows Peter emerging from his shell, gaining acceptance from his peers, and enjoying classic high school moments. The film is a testament to those on the frontlines fighting for Peter's rights, especially his mother Judy. In meeting after meeting, she checks in with Peter's teachers, makes plans for his transition to high school, and later, into the community, and struggles to treat his complex medical problems. Through it all, Judy is there for Peter, waging a constant battle to build the best future for her son.


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*Viva la causa—The story of César Chávez and a great movement for social justice.*


Tells the story of how the powerless stood up to the powerful and gained their victory, not by violence and weapons, but by their strong will.


Is a feature film based on a true story of a young Mexican American high school teacher, Sal Castro. He mentors a group of students in East Los Angeles, when the students decide to stage a peaceful walkout to protest the injustices of the public school system. Set against the background of the civil rights movement of 1968, it is a story of courage and the fight for justice and empowerment.


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