

Democracy Forum: Growing to Win

Before the workshop, please think of an answer to the prompt: **What is one thing in society you want to change in the next year?**

Our overall curriculum for Growing to Win covers a lot of ground, including:

1. How employing “deep listening” and Structured Organizing Conversations are essential outreach skills;
2. Techniques for helping less-informed citizens understand the authoritarian threat and how they can confront it
3. Best practices for organizing small-group events that focus on strengthening democracy

Rather than survey all those topics in one session, we intend to take a deep dive into the first. We intend to offer additional sessions addressing topics 2 & 3 in the coming months.

Meanwhile, here are some resources that focus on best practices for those additional items:

Understanding the authoritarian threat...

Stacey Abrams is doing great work in this area for anyone who hasn't realized that what we are seeing every day is an assault on the foundations of our Democracy. [In this video](#) she lays out the steps in four minutes, and predicts a lot of what we have seen over the past year. [Read more about the 10 Steps to Autocracy and The 10 Steps to Freedom and Power, how to resist.](#)

... and how they can confront it.

For anyone who thinks that their contributions can't make an impact, try directing them to [Erica Chenoweth](#), whose [research](#) has shown that, historically, it only takes 3.5% of a population engaging in persistent, nonviolent resistance to topple an authoritarian regime. [Civil Resistance and the 3.5% Rule](#) is a good, brief write-up and [The Success of Nonviolent Resistance](#) is an excellent 12 minute TED talk from Chenoweth. Here's a [framework for civil resistance](#) and an extensive list of everyday actions.

Organizing small group events

Indivisible National launched an initiative called One Million Rising to encourage members to host small gatherings to encourage more activism among like-minded resistance allies. Here's a [quick start guide](#) to the movements' methods, and [a more in-depth look](#). Or contact OMR@indivisiblepaloalto.org with questions, or for help planning and facilitating a gathering.

References

- Much of this workshop was adapted from: [The Organizing Conversation: Organizer Training Part 3](#). From the [Emergency Workplace Organizing Committee](#).
- With inspiration from [Jane McAlevey's book "No Shortcuts"](#) and
- Jane Slaughter's Secrets of a Successful Organizer. ([PDF here.](#))