

Activism: The Ultimate Teen Guide (It Happened to Me)

Kathlyn Gay

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Kathlyn Gay : Activism: The Ultimate Teen Guide (It Happened to Me) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Activism: The Ultimate Teen Guide (It Happened to Me):

Despite claims that young people today donrsquo;t care about the world they live in and donrsquo;t get involved in causes, more and more teens are taking up the fight for things they truly believe in. In fact, there are more than 10,000 members nationwide for the Youth Rights Movement and more than 50,000 members, fans, and supporters of Kids

against Animal Cruelty. Many young adults who aren't involved are simply unaware of how to become activists or where to start championing their causes. In *Activism: The Ultimate Teen Guide*, Kathlyn Gay explains why people become activists, the types of causes they advocate or oppose, and how teenagers can get involved. Activists are vigorous supporters for issues that are important to them, from social causes to political campaigns. While students often volunteer for a short period of time for school credit, many want to continue doing more outside of the classroom. This book assists those young adults who want to learn more about specific issues and organizations. Chapters are divided by topic and include Youth rights, Teen health, Campaigns against sexual violence and trafficking, Animal rights, Religious issues, Peace efforts, Gun control and gun rights, Immigration. This book also includes a valuable chapter on learning to be an activist and a resource section that lists dozens of organizations dedicated to specific causes. Throughout this book, the author highlights the lives and activities of numerous teens who are long-term activists and also suggests books and films that promote activism. *Activism: The Ultimate Teen Guide* is a wonderful resource for young adults who are interested in making the world a better place.

From *School Library Journal*, Gr 7 Up: This guide introduces the major issues addressed by young activists and shares the stories of real teens fighting for what they believe in. Gay describes 10 causes and the ways in which kids and teens have taken action. Some sections stress facts and statistics more than activism, particularly in chapters on sexual assault and climate change. Because of the grassroots and often localized nature of activism and the emphasis on current topics, the sources cited are primarily blogs and websites. The title is thoroughly researched and highlights diverse teen activists across the country. Gay offers historical perspectives and many resources for further reading and viewing. The information is up-to-date, including the latest about gay marriage and immigration reform. However, a major oversight is the omission of the generation-defining Occupy and Black Lives Matter movements; though the author does discuss the deaths of Michael Brown and Freddie Gray. Additionally, the material in some sections is scattered and lacks cohesion, as Gay jumps from story to story, and the bland stock images with vague descriptions add little value. **VERDICT** Because this volume falls somewhere in between a how-to guide and research material, it may be difficult for it to find an audience. But once teens begin to read, they will gain knowledge about timely topics and may be inspired to act for change. —Clara Hendricks, Cambridge Public Library, MA Gr 7 Up: This guide introduces the major issues addressed by young activists and shares the stories of real teens fighting for what they believe in. Gay describes 10 causes and the ways in which kids and teens have taken action. Some sections stress facts and statistics more than activism, particularly in chapters on sexual assault and climate change. Because of the grassroots and often localized nature of activism and the emphasis on current topics, the sources cited are primarily blogs and websites. The title is thoroughly researched and highlights diverse teen activists across the country. Gay offers historical perspectives and many resources for further reading and viewing. The information is up-to-date, including the latest about gay marriage and immigration reform. . . . **VERDICT** . . . [O]nce teens begin to read, they will gain knowledge about timely topics and may be inspired to act for change. (*School Library Journal*) **About the Author** Kathlyn Gay has written more than 120 books and articles. She is the author of several titles in the "It Happened to Me" series for Rowman Littlefield, including *Cultural Diversity* (2003), *Volunteering* (2004), *The Military and Teens* (2008), *Body Image and Appearance* (2009), *Living Green* (2012), *Bigotry and Intolerance* (2013), and *Divorce* (2014).