

**ID** research framework 10**People Power: Nonviolent Protest**

Nonviolent protest can encompass various tactics, including civil disobedience, boycotts, strikes, and noncooperation with established rules or laws. Throughout history, people who have suffered from invisibility—whose situations have gone unacknowledged and unaddressed—have spoken out peacefully and been heard.

**Find Out** Research acts of nonviolent protest that have occurred in different countries in the past or that are currently happening. Record your findings. Once you've researched at least three, select one that intrigues you most and asterisk it.

**Notes: Nonviolent Protest**

–In 1964, United Farm Workers Association formed in California to protect grape workers' rights. César Chávez got involved. Strikes by workers weren't effective. Huge boycott of Schenley Liquor Company organized.

**Recap** Imagine that you are living in the time and place of the nonviolent protest you selected from your research. The lives of your readers will be directly affected. Will the protest be good for the community? Will the disruption it causes be worth it? Who will be helped? Who may get hurt in the process?

**Try This** Take a stance. Write a brief **newspaper editorial** to inform readers of the facts of the protest you selected and present your opinion. A newspaper editorial expresses a clear opinion about a topic. It lays out this opinion from the start and backs it up with details and reasons. A good editorial then concludes by restating or summarizing the position it has taken on the issue.

First, browse through several national and local periodicals to become more familiar with the format and style of editorials. Take notes on different aspects. For example:

**Notes: Editorials**

–NY Times 9/29/09: editorial about Germany's reelection of chancellor. First paragraph states the paper's positive opinion on the election.  
–Later gives advice to the chancellor about how to act now. Gives several reasons for believing she is right person.

As you write your editorial, remember to include factual reasons and background information to back up your opinion.

Use the **ID Research Worksheet** to keep track of your sources and the information you gather.



nonviolent protest, civil disobedience,  
grassroots activism