



# Celebrating Dolores Huerta Day!

## Civic Engagement: Women of Color Activists

Thanks to support from:



Photo courtesy Special Collections, University Library, University of California Santa Cruz.

# Five-Day Unit Goals

- Students will be introduced to Dolores Huerta's activism and Dolores Huerta Day
- Students will examine the power of civic engagement through Dolores Huerta's activism work
- Students will understand policy context that led to organizing actions and the resulting laws
- Students be introduced to the concept of intersectionality
- Students will identify women of color activists and their contributions throughout civil rights history
- Students will identify local women of color community leaders and devise methods of contributing to their causes

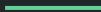
Day 1

# Introduction to Dolores Huerta

And Dolores Huerta Day  
on April 10th

Are you familiar with Dolores  
Huerta?

Write down anything and everything  
that you know about Dolores Huerta



# Who is Dolores Huerta?

## Brief Background:

- Born in April 10, 1930 in Dawson, New Mexico
- Active in numerous school clubs
- Was a majorette
- Dedicated member of the Girl Scouts until the age of 18.
- Continued her education at the University of Pacific's Delta College in Stockton earning a provisional teaching credential.
- While teaching she could no longer bear to see her students come to school with empty stomachs and bare feet, and thus began her lifelong journey of working to correct economic injustice.
- Dolores left for delano from stockton in 1962
- Mother of 11



Photo credit: Kathy Murphy, used with permission.

# Who is Dolores Huerta?

## What She Saw

- Segregation
- Discrimination
- Poor Social conditions of Farmworkers
- Poor economic conditions of farm workers

## What She Did

- Quit teaching to fight farmworker oppression
- 1955 stockton chapter of Community Service Organization (CSO) with Fred Ross
- 1960 Started Agricultural Workers of America (AWA)
- Voter registration Drives
- Lobbied politicians to allow non-US citizens to receive public assistance, pensions, and Spanish ballots, Spanish driving tests



Photo Credit: Dolores Huerta Foundation, photographer Angela Torres.



Who is Dolores Huerta?

# Celebrating Dolores Huerta Day!

- April 10th (Dolores Huerta's birthday)
- Established in 2019 in California
- Recognition of lifelong pursuit of justice



About image: used by the State of California to recognize the day. Graphic designer unknown.

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT STATE OF CALIFORNIA

### PROCLAMATION

A living legend, Dolores Clara Huerta was born on April 10, 1930, in Dawson, New Mexico. Taught by her family the importance of giving back to her community and giving a voice to the voiceless, Huerta has been a tireless advocate for working people of California.

Huerta's lifelong pursuit of justice was sparked in the Central Valley when, teaching the children of farmworkers, she often saw her students come to school with empty stomachs and bare feet. Finding her passion fighting for the rights of workers and their families, she has never stopped working towards equality. She began her advocacy work by serving as a leader of the Community Service Organization in Stockton and forming the Agricultural Workers Association, where she worked to increase voter registration in her community and advocated for neighborhood improvements.

Through this work, she joined forces with César Chávez to advocate for better conditions for farmworkers and their families. Together with Larry Irlong, Philip Vera Cruz, Pete Velasco and Andy Imutan, they formed the United Farm Workers and took on grape growers who were exploiting the people who toiled in their fields. Huerta was instrumental in the nationwide boycott of grapes that led to the first farmworker union contracts. Her fierce advocacy also helped secure the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975, a first-in-the-nation law that extended collective bargaining rights to farmworkers. She remained committed to nonviolent resistance, even after nearly losing her life when she was beaten at a protest in 1988.

It is for these acts of bravery and determination that Huerta became the first Latina inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993 and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States, in 2016.

Huerta continues to be a powerful force for social justice and empowerment for all. Through her leadership of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, she continues to build upon her legacy of civic engagement by training the next generation of community organizers and advocating for the working poor, women and children.

Today, Huerta's 89th birthday, we honor her lifelong commitment to justice for all and the many trails she paved for generations of activists. May her rallying cry of "¡sí se puede!" continue to call us to fight for the change our communities need to thrive.

**NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim April 10, 2019, as the first annual "Dolores Huerta Day."

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2019.



GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

ATTEST:

ALEX PADILLA  
Secretary of State



# What is Civic Engagement?



[Image by Stockcake:](#)

Community Rising Together  
(public domain).

**Civic engagement** means working to make a difference in the civic life of our **communities** and developing the combination of **knowledge, skills, values** and **motivations** to make that difference. It means promoting the **quality of life** in a community, through both **political** and **non-political processes** (Civic Responsibility in Higher Education, Ehrlich, 2000, p.vi).

Operating with unwavering **hope**, we believe in achieving the seemingly unattainable. “**Si se puede**” embodies a **collective awakening to individual and communal power**. Our civic engagement department is dedicated to equipping **grassroots leaders** with the **tools** and **knowledge** essential for guiding their **communities** toward enduring **transformative solutions**. We aim to create a Central Valley of **informed** and **engaged citizens** and **voters** ready to **advocate, educate, vote**, and use our political system to create a more **just** and **equitable** Central Valley (Dolores Huerta Foundation website).

# A Woman's Role...



Photo courtesy © George Ballis,  
used with permission.



Photo courtesy © Lori de León, used with permission.

## **Dolores Huerta: 58 Sexist Comments in the United Farm Workers Meeting**



# Some of her recognitions and where she is at now

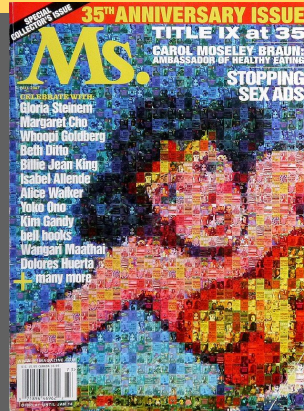
Right: Ms. Magazine cover, Fall 2007.  
Source: Liberty Media for Women LLC,  
[CC BY-SA 4.0](#) via Wikimedia Commons

- 4 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN CALIFORNIA
- 1 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS
- 1 HIGH SCHOOL IN PUEBLO, COLORADO
- INDUCTED INTO THE CALIFORNIA HALL OF FAME IN MARCH OF 2013
- IN 2012 PRESIDENT OBAMA BESTOWED DOLORES WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

Right: President Barack Obama talks to attendees during the Presidential Medal of Freedom ceremony, held on Tuesday, May 29, 2012, at the White House in Washington. Photo Credit: (NASA/Bill Ingalls)



Above Source: Rafa213, [CC BY-SA 4.0](#) via Wikimedia Commons



Above Source: Rafa213, [CC BY-SA 4.0](#) via Wikimedia Commons

## RECEIVED NUMEROUS AWARDS

- THE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT HUMANS RIGHTS AWARD
- MS. MAGAZINE'S ONE OF THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT WOMEN OF 1997
- LADIES HOME JOURNAL'S 100 MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN OF THE 20TH CENTURY
- THE PUFFIN FOUNDATION'S AWARD FOR CREATIVE CITIZENSHIP \$100,000
- LABOR LEADER AWARD 1984,
- THE KERN COUNTY WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM THE CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE
- THE OHTLI AWARD FROM THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT
- THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION – JAMES SMITHSON AWARD,
- 9 HONORARY DOCTORATES FROM UNIVERSITIES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES.

# Women of Color Activists



Rosa Parks

Credit: USIA / National Archives and Records Administration  
Records of the U.S. Information Agency Record Group 306,  
Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

- Born on February 4th, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama
- Growing up in the segregated South, Parks was frequently confronted with racial discrimination and violence

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks boarded a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Instead of going to the back of the bus, which was designated for African Americans, she sat in the front. When the bus started to fill up with white passengers, the bus driver asked Parks to move. She refused. Her resistance set in motion one of the largest social movements in history, the Montgomery Bus Boycott.



# Women of Color Activists



Shirley Chisholm

Credit: Adam Cuerden, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

- Born in Brooklyn, New York, on November 30, 1924, Chisholm was the oldest of four daughters to immigrant parents from Guyana, and from Barbados
- Professors encouraged her to consider a political career, she replied that she faced a “double handicap” as both Black and female.

Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm was the first African American woman in Congress (1968) and the first woman and African American to seek the nomination for president of the United States from one of the two major political parties (1972). Her motto and title of her autobiography—Unbought and Unbossed—illustrates her outspoken advocacy for women and minorities during her seven terms in the U.S. House of Representatives.

# Women of Color Activists



Angela Davis

Credit: Oregon State University, [CC BY-SA 2.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons.

- Angela Davis was born in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1944
- Angela was exposed to both racism and activism at an early age. Angela's neighborhood was nicknamed "Dynamite Hill" because the Ku Klux Klan often attacked the homes of Black residents with bombs. Speaking out about civil rights in Birmingham was incredibly dangerous.

She is most famous for her involvement with the Soledad brothers, who were accused of killing a prison guard. During George Jackson's trial in August 1970, an escape attempt was made at gunpoint and several people were killed. Davis was accused of taking part in the event and was charged with murder. Evidence showed that the guns were registered to her and rumors said she was in love with Jackson, which later proved untrue. Davis went into hiding and was placed on the FBI's most wanted list. She spent eighteen months in jail, which led to the "Free Angela Davis" campaign and the Angela Davis Legal Defense Committee.

# Women of the Black Panther Party

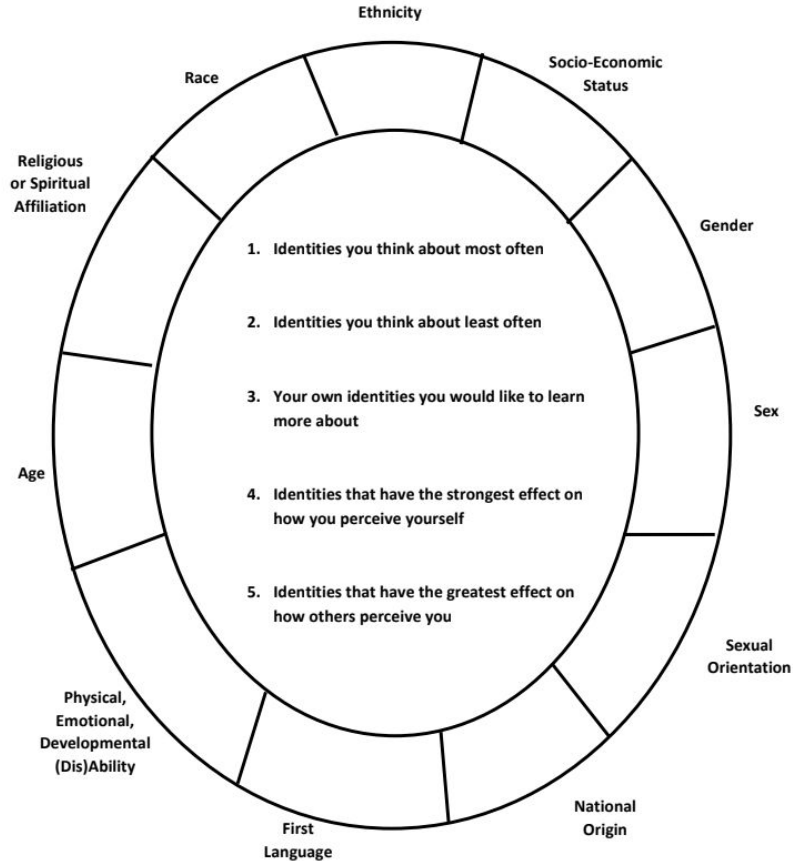


Source: Rainalee111, [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons



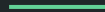
# Social Identity Wheel

- Review social identity handout
- Fill in the wheel and then write answers to each question
- Pair/share and then with the whole class as comfortable



# Discussion Question

How do you think the experiences of women and women of color differ from men or white women in activist movements?



Day 2

# The Urgency of Intersectionality: Kimberlé Crenshaw

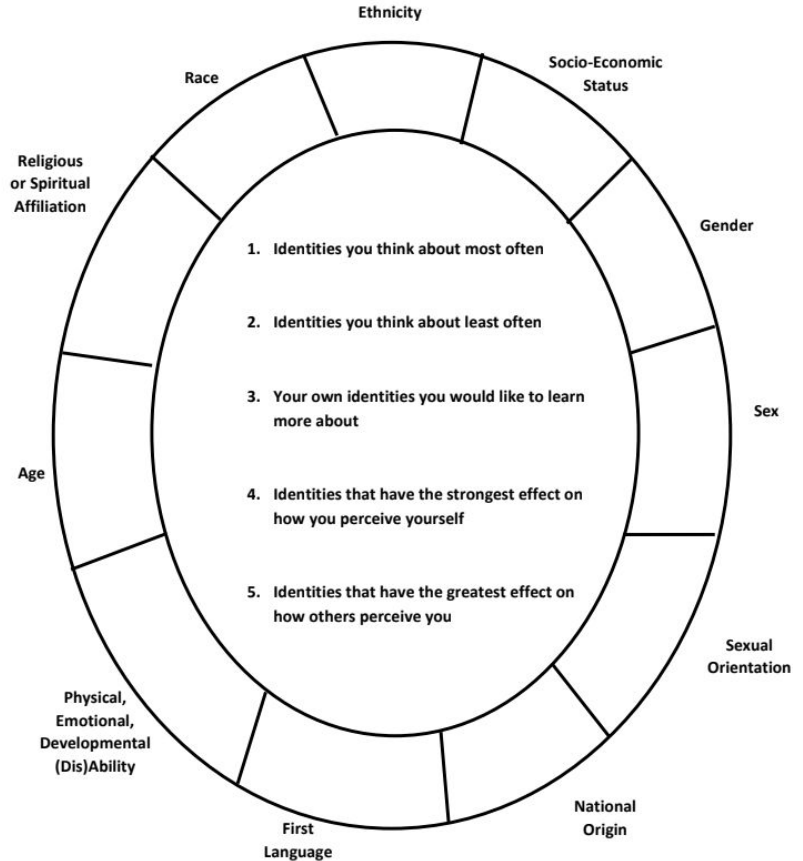


# Who am I? Activity

- Pass out notecards
- On one side, write down words that they would use to describe themselves
- On the other side, write down words that others might use to describe them
- Reflect on the differences between these two sides and what is lost when you only use words that others would use
- Discuss as a class

# Social Identity Wheel

- Review social identity handout
- Fill in the wheel and then write answers to each question
- Pair/share and then with the whole class as comfortable

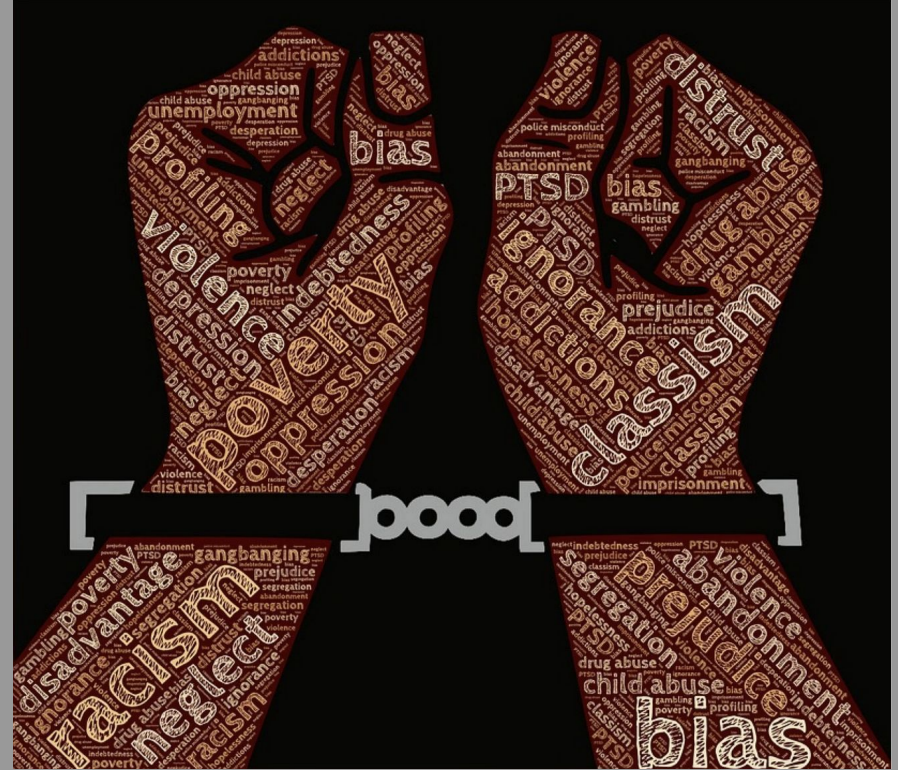


# Oppression and Resistance

## DEFINE OPPRESSION:

THE EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY OR POWER  
IN A CRUEL OR UNJUST MANNER

# WHAT DOES OPPRESSION LOOK LIKE?



Source: Pixabay free image

# DYNAMICS OF OPPRESSION

the exercise of authority or power in a cruel or unjust manner

	<b>INSTITUTIONAL (Systemic – Society)</b>	<b>INTERPERSONAL (Group)</b>	<b>INTRAPERSONAL (Individual)</b>
Thoughts	Institutionalized stereotype <i>(acknowledges stereotype exists* even through denial)</i>	Group stereotype <i>(thought of stereotype is commonly understood)</i>	STEREOTYPE <i>(Spanish or Southern accent is bad)</i>
Feelings / Beliefs	Institutionalized prejudice <i>(institution accepts stereotype as factual)</i>	Group prejudice <i>(stereotype is believed to be true)</i>	PREJUDICE <i>(Spanish or Southern accent is bad)</i>
Behaviors / Actions	Institutionalized discrimination <i>(institution justifies discrimination)</i>	Discrimination <i>(Spanish or Southern accent are made fun of)</i>	Self-inflicted discrimination <i>Is internalized (I change my accent to avoid discrimination)</i>
Policies, Practices, Structures, Laws, Culture, Norms	OPPRESSION / ISM <i>(Structural Inequality of hiring practice based on accent)</i>		



# DYNAMICS OF OPPRESSION IN AMERICAN FARM LABOR

INSTITUTIONAL (SYSTEMIC – SOCIETY)	INTERPERSONAL (GROUP)	INTRAPERSONAL (INDIVIDUAL)



**“We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.”**

Image: Nobel Foundation, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

**Martin Luther  
King, Jr.**

**(Letter from a Birmingham Jail)**

# Oppression and Resistance



Photo by [Jon Tyson](#) on [Unsplash](#)

DEFINE RESISTANCE:

*THE REFUSAL TO ACCEPT OR COMPLY  
WITH SOMETHING; THE ATTEMPT TO  
PREVENT SOMETHING BY ACTION OR  
ARGUMENT.*

WHAT DOES  
RESISTANCE LOOK  
LIKE?

## DYNAMICS OF RESISTANCE BY UFW AND FARMWORKERS

INSTITUTIONAL (SYSTEMIC – SOCIETY)	INTERPERSONAL (GROUP)	INTRAPERSONAL (INDIVIDUAL)

*In dyads, discuss the following:  
Share a personal or historical example of  
oppression and resistance.*



Source: Pixabay free image

Day 3



**The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), first proposed in 1923, is an amendment to the United States Constitution that guarantees equality of rights under the law for all persons regardless of sex.**

**As of January 27, 2020, the ERA has satisfied the requirements of Article V of the Constitution for ratification (passage by two-thirds of each house of Congress and approval by three-fourths of the states).**

**Leading constitutional scholars agree that the ERA is now part of the Constitution. Because of issues raised about its unique ratification process (explained on the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page), the Archivist of the United States has not yet taken the final ministerial step of publishing the ERA in the *Federal Register* with certification of its ratification as the 28th Amendment.**

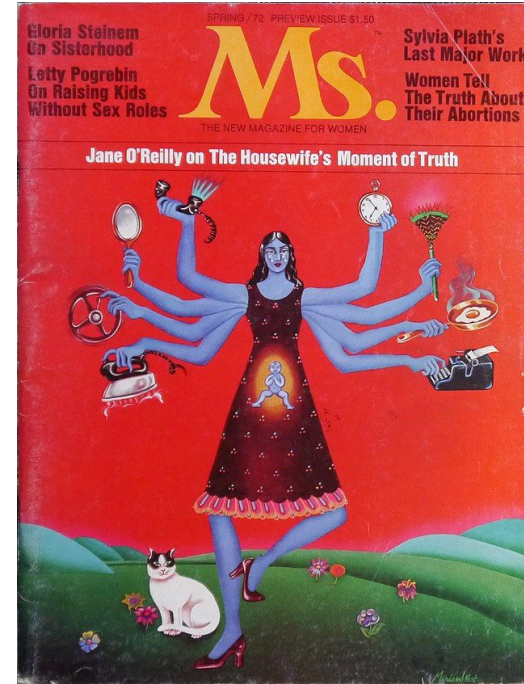
# Introduction to the Development of Feminist Media

- Women's Liberation and Women in Print Movement spurred development of feminist media in early 1970s
- Newsletters such as *Matrices*, *The Lesbian/Gay History Researchers Network Newsletter*, and the *Lesbian Herstory Archives* functioned as a network for sharing information and resources and facilitated collaboration across space, with people who were otherwise difficult to know about, let alone reach.



# Introduction to the Development of Feminist Media

- **Ms. Magazine** was created in 1971 by journalist, political and social activist Gloria Steinem
- Several landmark stories on topics including abortion, overseas sweatshops, sex trafficking, the wage gap, the glass ceiling, date rape, and domestic violence.
- Bought by The Feminist Majority (Dolores Huerta is a board member) in 2001



Ms. Magazine Cover (Spring 1972)

Source: Liberty Media for Women LLC, [CC BY-SA 4.0](#) via Wikimedia Commons

# Introduction to the Development of Feminist Media

## Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press

- Started in 1980 by Barbara Smith, Beverly Smith, Cherríe Moraga, and poet Audre Lorde
- A press run by and for women of color - other arenas of publishing were white-dominated
- Reaction to racism within women's movement in late 1970's
- Some of Kitchen Table's most popular titles include: 1984 anthology by Cherríe Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa titled *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color* and Barbara Smith's *Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology*, first published in 1984 and Audre Lorde's *I Am Your Sister: Black Women Organizing Across Sexualities*.

# Discussion Questions

- How did the development of feminist media further activist movements?
  - How is feminist media an example of resistance to oppression?
  - What challenges do you think women of color activists faced that were different from white women activists?
-

# Identify local women of color community leaders and devise methods of contributing to their causes

- In groups/pairs identify local women of color community leaders
- Brainstorm methods of contributing to their causes

Day 4

# What is Civic Engagement?



[Image by Stockcake:](#)

Community Rising Together  
(public domain).

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# Civic engagement and support

**In the same groups as Day 3, brainstorm an action that each group can take that aligns with the causes spearheaded by local women of color. These actions can correspond to community organizations as well.**

Some examples can include:

- Writing letters to/calling local legislators, encouraging them to support the proposed values/actions
- Creating a campaign within the school (working with student government etc.)
- Signing up to volunteer time at local organization
- Or something else!



Day 5



“¡Sí Se Puede!”: Dolores Huerta’s 50 Years of Activism

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- Creating a campaign within the school (working with student government etc.)
- Signing up to volunteer time at local organization
- Or something else!

Present your project to the class  
and discuss goals and future steps



Photo Credit: Victor Aleman, used with permission.