

Queering Manchester Museum

Activity: Make a Protest Sign

Protest signs have become an important part of activist art. Making and displaying placards are ways that you can give voice to your ideas and personalise your political message. You do not need to go to a protest to make a protest sign, you can make a poster to display in your window.

Your message is the reason for the sign. Let others see your message by creating a sign that is clear and eye-catching!



You will need:

- One or two poster boards (you could use cereal boxes)
- Marker pens or paint, and anything else you want to use to decorate your sign
- Glue or tape
- Hollow cardboard tube (or short wooden stick)



Figure out what you want to say. Pick something that you feel really passionate about.



Instructions:

1. Compose a short, clear statement to represent your message.

You are best sticking to a statement of 7 words or less, since it can be hard to fit long text on a protest sign. You can say a lot in 7 words!

You may want to use a symbol as part of your message. This can either in place of text or drawn alongside your words.

Make your message personal. If you identify as queer, trans, female, working-class, or something else, you could connect your statement one or more of the different identities you relate to!



2. Make a general outline of what you're going to write. Make sure that your writing is clear and easy to read, as well as large enough for someone to read from a reasonable distance away.



3. Fill in your text and symbols with marker pens or paint. A contrast between colours for your text and background will help your message stand out!

For a really eye-catching placard or poster, how about adding decorations or bright outlines?

4. Repeat for the other side.

5. Attach a handle to your sign. You can use either a hollow cardboard tube or wooden stick and glue or tape to the sign.

