

**Activism Ideas**

The SAPIENT BEING organizations are required to host at least one activism event each semester. While a basic tabling event would fulfill this requirement, many organizations can do more per the following suggestions. If you need help executing any of these events, please feel free to contact SAPIENT BEING HQ for assistance.

As a general rule for all activism events, make sure you reserve an outdoor space and/or a route in a high-traffic area on campus at least 2 weeks ahead. If the weather is not ideal, it’s in your club’s best interests to reschedule the event. All of the downloadable supplies for the campaign items can be found at the RESOURCES page at [www.sapientbeing.org](http://www.sapientbeing.org) and any additional merchandise and activism supplies can be ordered at the SHOP page at [www.sapientbeing.org](http://www.sapientbeing.org/Shop).

**Chicago Statement Petition**

Circulating a petition to gain support for this cause can be a highly effective activism strategy for increasing freedom of speech and preserving it. The “Chicago Statement” refers to the free speech policy statement produced by the Committee on Freedom of Expression at the University of Chicago, in July of 2014, that tasked the Committee with “articulating the University’s overarching commitment to free, robust, and uninhibited debate and deliberation among all members of the University’s community.”

When your school adopts the Chicago Statement, it shows that your institution values free expression for all students and faculty. Free speech rights benefit everyone on campus. Whether your goal is to campaign, protest, research, or simply learn in an environment that promotes open inquiry and the free exchange of ideas, the Chicago Statement will help to hold your institution accountable for protecting the free expression rights of its students and faculty.

Your petition page title can be: Protect Our First Amendment Rights, or Adopt the Chicago Statement, or Make Free Speech Again on Campus. A SAPIENT BEING partner organization called FIRE offers sample petitions, resolutions, letters and templates to help strengthen, submit and approve the petition at <https://www.thefire.org/get-involved/student-network/take-action/adopting-the-chicago-statement/>. If you are making your own, be sure to include a place for students to write their name, email address, and phone number.

Once you have your petitions ready, place them on clipboards and gather pens. On the day of your petition event, walk around campus with your clipboard and ask students to sign the petition for your cause. Be friendly with everyone, and if someone doesn’t support your issue, use it as an opportunity to educate them about your perspective and viewpoints.

Be sure to tell students who support your petition about your student group and follow up with all petition signers after the event.

If your petition relates to an issue that impacts your campus and you collect enough signatures, you may consider submitting a copy of your petition to the Student Government Association and/or the school administration.

Important: If they are interested in getting involved be sure to collect their contact information on the petition sign-up form and ask them to return to your table for more info.