

Using the documentary film about the
Los Angeles Teacher's Strike

WHEN WE FIGHT

in local organizing



Where to Show the Film

- Union Membership Meeting
- Site Rep Council Meeting
- Community Coalition Meeting
- Service Center Council Event

How to Access the Film

CTA affiliates can access the film for free by filling out [this form](#) at least two weeks prior to your screening date.

Tips for a Successful Screening

- Consider your audience and your local organizing goals.
- Review the attached discussion guide. Provide this to your attendees in advance or use it as inspiration to create your own.

Build Local Organizing Capacity

Use the film to spark discussion in your local union. Plan additional activities that build upon the themes in your discussion, for example, a [Site Visit Program](#).

SETTING THE STAGE

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) is the second largest local educators' union in the country with 34,000 members representing Early Education to Adult Education Teachers, Health and Human Service Professionals, and Substitutes. In 2014, the newly elected leadership of UTLA set out to transform and focus the union on "The Schools LA Students Deserve" through systematic organizing. It took five years to build the union infrastructure and foundation, including thousands of conversations on racial, social, and educational justice issues, to carry out a successful strike around the issues that members cared about most.

Watch as one of the largest educator strikes in modern U.S. history unfolds in real-time, highlighting the stories and leadership of some of the women who led it, from union leaders to classroom teachers.

Use this guide to plan a facilitated viewing of the 33-minute documentary to build power in your local community.





WHEN WE FIGHT

Discussion Guide

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before the screening of the film, consider:

1. What is a strike? What does it mean to strike?
2. What do you think is necessary for a strike?
3. What do you think are the challenges to striking?
4. What makes a strike successful?

After watching the film, discuss:

1. Was the strike different than what you expected?
2. What most surprised you after watching this film?
3. How do you think a strike impacts further union/community wins?
4. After the 2019 strike, the UTLA Bargaining Team expanded from 15 to 85 members, union members elected the first Black/Latinx female President of UTLA, a parent leader was elected to the LA School Board, and UTLA members united for LA schools with classified school staff in an unprecedented solidarity strike. Most recently, through this movement of educators, students, parents, and community, UTLA won a groundbreaking contract in its Beyond Recovery campaign. How do you think a successful strike can expand your local union's internal capacity?

Apply *When We Fight* to your local:

1. What do you think is needed to build power?
2. What are your challenges and strengths?
3. How can you accomplish your goals?

ADDITIONAL READINGS

Books:

- [Secrets of a Successful Organizer](#)
- [Strike for the Common Good](#)
- [Teacher Unions and Social Justice](#)



If you're using a printed version of this guide, use this QR Code to access the readings links.

Articles:

- ["Hear Us Roar: #RedForEd – A Growing Movement" – California Educator](#)
- ["The Strike As the Ultimate Structure Test" – Catalyst](#)
- ["The Union Has to Be About Social Justice" – Jacobin](#)
- ["The Resurgence of Teachers Unions" – The Forge](#)

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