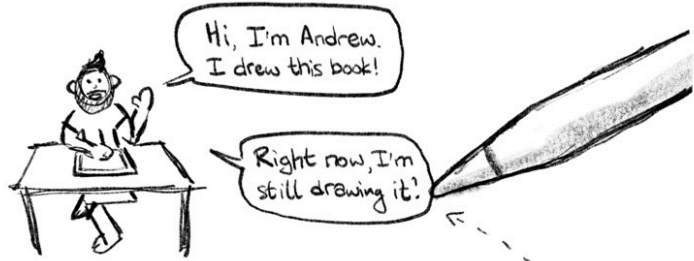


# A (Brief!) Statement from the Artist



When I started collaborating with Joe and Tanner to interpret this great activism-oriented learning sciences scholarship, I was excited.

And since we got started, the need for this work has only felt even more pressing.



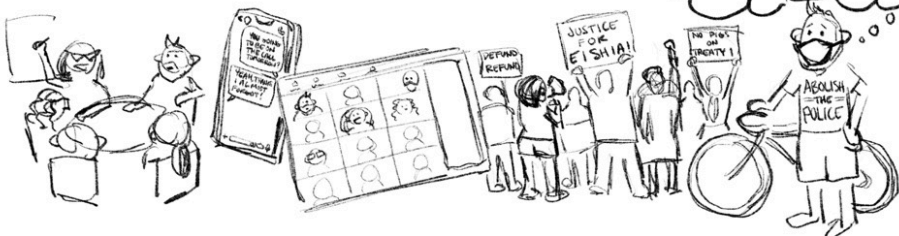
It feels like there's a new crisis every week. With everything going on, who has time to read a whole article, no matter how crucial?

There's a lot of great work here! I'd love to help make it more accessible to activists!

YAY!



All that crisis doesn't make it easy to do this kind of work, either. While we've been making this book, I can't count the hours spent in organizing meetings, having one-on-ones, on video conferences (thanks, COVID-19!) and at protest after protest upon protest.





Maybe all that uprising has something to do with one of the biggest problems with this book: my tendency to draw activism principally in relation to protest.

## +PROS

and fun!  
- It's easy to draw protests

- protests are recognizable symbols of activism

- the easiest images to reference about movements I wasn't a part of are the tactics



## -CONS

- most of the real doing of activism is behind-the-scenes, keeping movements alive

- this work is often gendered, sometimes racialized, and almost universally de-emphasized in popular stories

- focusing on tactics instead of the work of movements doesn't help us learn to win



I don't get it,  
I posted the event  
on Facebook!



\* Marxist Feminists call this "reproductive labour," some social movement scholars call it "shit work"



and anyway,  
the best and most treasured  
stories of movement elders  
mostly aren't protest stories.



... and that  
was the first time I  
really believed that  
integration was  
possible

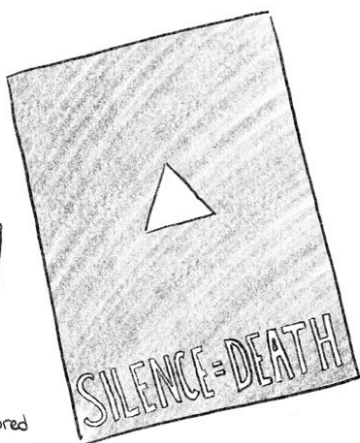


All the same, I'm bringing a visual approach to this work, and the movements that I love and that brought me up spent a lot of effort to make visible presences that remain etched in our collective consciousness,

The AIDS movement, where I got my start in activism, has produced some very stunning visuals in both design and action.



The ACT UP elders who mentored me and my peers knew how to take direct action, and be visually memorable.



So I hope you'll forgive my indulging in the quick trick of drawing activists with placards and megaphones. Comics are a visual medium and lean towards shortform and tropes to get ideas across quickly and digestably.



But when I think about the movements that got us here ...



Maybe it takes a striking image —



I think those movements lean into images, too.



— to help us imagine transforming our world.

Just remember, as the authors here make clear — if we want our movements to learn and grow,  
**WE GOTTA DO THE WORK!**

This comic is part of  
**Learning to Engage: Movements and  
Sociocultural Theories of Learning.**

for more, visit:  
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