

Student Worksheet #1: The Stonewall Uprising: How Rights Change (5 pages)

Name: _____

Date: _____

HOW CHANGE HAPPENS

BEFORE → **ACTION** → **CHANGE** → **SYSTEM RESPONSE**
Unfair treatment → People speak up → Awareness grows → Laws & systems respond

Use the model above to guide your thinking as you work.

Part 1: Notice the Situation *(What was happening before change?)*

What was life like for LGBTQ+ people *before* the uprising?

1. What did you notice LGBTQ+ people were experiencing? (Check all that apply)

- Unfair treatment
- Fear or lack of safety
- Rules being applied unevenly
- Limited ability to express themselves
- Other: _____

Choose ONE example from the video and describe what you saw or heard:

Part 2: Identify the Problem

Good thinkers don't just notice events—they identify the problem behind them.

2. What made the situation unfair? (Check all that apply)

- People were not treated equally under the law
- Rules were enforced differently for different groups
- People could not express themselves freely
- People were not safe or protected
- Other: _____

Give specific examples from the video. _____

Part 3: How Were Rights Working at the Time?

Use specific moments from the video to help you decide.

Match What You Saw

3a. Read each category and check what you observed in the video.

Category	What it means	What did you notice?
Law	Are rights clearly protected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat <input type="checkbox"/> No
Enforcement	Are rules applied fairly?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat <input type="checkbox"/> No
Speech	Can people express themselves freely?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat <input type="checkbox"/> No
Safety	Are people treated with dignity and protected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat <input type="checkbox"/> No

Explain

3b. Pick the category (from the chart above) that you think was weakest.

Which one did you choose? _____

What did you see or hear in the video that made you choose this? Be specific.

Think About What That Means

3c. What might it look like if even one out of the four categories of our rights is considered weak?

Part 4: What Changed?

Now shift your thinking from problem → change.

4a. What began to change after the Stonewall Uprising? (Check all that apply)

- Awareness increased
- More people spoke out
- Laws or protections began to shift
- Public attitudes changed
- Other: _____

4b. Describe ONE change clearly:

Part 5: How Does Change Happen?

Don't just list what happened—think about how it happened.

5a. Which of these helped create change? (Check all that apply)

- People spoke up
- People worked together
- The issue became more visible
- The system (laws/courts/government) responded
- Other: _____

5b. Is change immediate? Explain how change happens.

PART 6: Think About Systems

6a. In a democracy how is it possible to push for change and increase civil rights? (Check all that helped make change possible)

- Freedom of speech exists
- People can organize
- Laws can be challenged
- Government can respond to people

6b. Explain your choices.

Part 7: Compare Systems

7a. In some countries, people cannot safely speak up.

What might be different in a country where people are NOT allowed to protest? (Check all that apply)

- People may be punished
- Change may not happen
- Problems may continue without being addressed
- Voices may not be heard

7b. What impact would that have on rights over time?

Part 8: Final Reflection

A. What is the difference between rights written in law and rights in real life?

B. Why is it important that people can speak up in a democracy?

9. Draw a Symbol

Draw a symbol or picture of what a free democracy looks like - where people are free and enjoy equal rights under the law.