

Student Worksheet #1:

10 Crucial Questions to Analyze a Social Justice Movement:

1. What are the movement's stated goals in their original documents, manifestos - and do its actual actions match those goals?
Is it solving real injustices, or is it using justice-language to disguise a different agenda?
2. Does the movement promote inclusion, equity, and human dignity for all - or does it apply double standards that exclude, scapegoat, or dehumanize certain groups?
True social justice cannot come at the cost of others' rights, dignity, or safety - fairness must be applied universally.
3. Does the movement encourage violence, intimidation, or hatred against ordinary people — including neighbors, dissenters, or groups with different views?
Calls to harm others, even “symbolically” (ex: destruction of property, blocking entrances to public spaces, vandalism), are a major warning sign.
4. Does it tolerate civil discourse, debate, and self-critique - or does it punish disagreement and enforce ideological purity?
Healthy movements allow questions; harmful ones suppress them.
5. Does the movement rely on emotional manipulation, conspiracy thinking, or misinformation and propaganda - rather than facts and reasoned argument?
Propaganda thrives on fear and confusion; justice requires clarity and truth.

6. Who benefits - politically, financially, or socially - if the movement gains power?
Is it uplifting communities, or concentrating control in the hands of a few?
7. Does the movement recognize the complexity of history and social systems - or does it oversimplify everything into good vs. evil, us vs. them?
Oversimplification often precedes dehumanization.
8. Does it encourage active citizenship, nonviolence, and democratic participation - or bullying, silencing, and top-down control?
Social justice strengthens democracy; authoritarianism hollows it out.
9. Is the movement transparent about its methods, leaders, and funding - or does it hide its true agenda or backers?
Secrecy and manipulation are common tools of propaganda.
10. What would the world look like if the movement fully achieved its goals?
Would it lead to more freedom, fairness, and dignity for ALL - or more fear, division, and control?