

# HOW TO ANTI-A MONUMENT

So you've petitioned the authorities, written letters, spoken out in city council meetings, voted with your wallet and ballot, and still that racist shit is in the town square. What's next?

an activist's guide for action when\* the state is complicit in upholding white supremacy.



**SEE SOMETHING?  
DO SOMETHING.  
#SILENCEISVIOLENCE**

## 1. READ YOUR HISTORY



Confederate monuments tell us a great deal about how cultural and political institutions worked hand-in-hand to legitimate white supremacy. The installation of these monuments coincided with the rise of Jim Crow, the resurgence of the KKK, and the onslaught of racial terror lynchings.

This is a time to think critically about who, historically and currently, is oppressed by this monument. Whose voices will you center? Which narratives will you platform?

## 2. PLAN & GATHER

Talk with your fellow activists. What are your goals? Your risks? Read up on security culture. (Who keeps us safe? We keep us safe.) What infrastructure do you need to achieve the desired goal? Will you bring it down with ropes? Chisel out the epigraph and carve your own instead? Topple it with vibrations of the deepest bass from a boom box? Build a box of mirrors around it to envision an iteration of a future landscape?

How might we shape our own actions to avoid replicating the effects of patriarchy, ableism, transphobia, and white supremacy?



## 3. LEGAL AID

Everyone involved should be aware of and consent to the risks they are taking. Will you need legal support? Have you reached out to your local NLG? Could you host a dance party to benefit a bail fund?

(If your action could provoke police retaliation / repression, evaluate this inside of a framework that critically considers the communities and demographics who bear the brunt of police violence.)

## 4. COORDINATE MEDIA (OPTIONAL)

Weigh the costs and benefits of alerting media to your action. Will your group designate a spokesperson & press contact, or remain fully anonymous? Will you need someone to direct cameras away? Or make Guerilla Girl-style masks? Compose talking points and sound bites if needed.

## 5. READY? SET? GO.

Scout the location again. Divide roles. Synchronize your watches. Finalize during-action decision making structures. Stay aware & respond to changes as they arise. Oh, and also bring external battery packs. (Remember that boom box we talked about?)



## 6. ENVISION A NEW WORLD

After your action, melt the bronze, sell the plinth, and use the money to pay reparations. Or, keep the pedestal and repurpose it as a stage, or as base for your pop-up lending library. Turn it on its side to use as a bench during a teach-in about police abolition. Set up a tent where the monument was and call it a residency. Use the space to demonstrate an alternative to the way things are "supposed" to be.

White supremacy did not begin with Confederate monuments, nor will it end when they are gone. Yet monuments have the power to shape collective memory and manipulate the past to construct and maintain violent master narratives. We see the removal of these monuments, by any means necessary, as an integral action in combatting white supremacy. It is important though that the fight does not end here. Another world must be possible.



\* the state is pretty much always complicit, but that is beyond the scope of this particular guide