

Contemporary Latin Artists and Activism

A person wearing a black mask and goggles is holding a Puerto Rican flag high against a cloudy sky. The flag features a white field with a blue triangle on the left containing a white star, and a red triangle on the right. The person is wearing a black long-sleeved shirt and a black mask with colorful reflective goggles.

Est. Time: 60-120 minutes

Subjects: Civics, History, Social Studies, General Music

Age Range: High School

See the full lesson [here!](#)

★ *TEACHROCK* ★

How are contemporary Latin artists pursuing activism and promoting positive change in their communities?

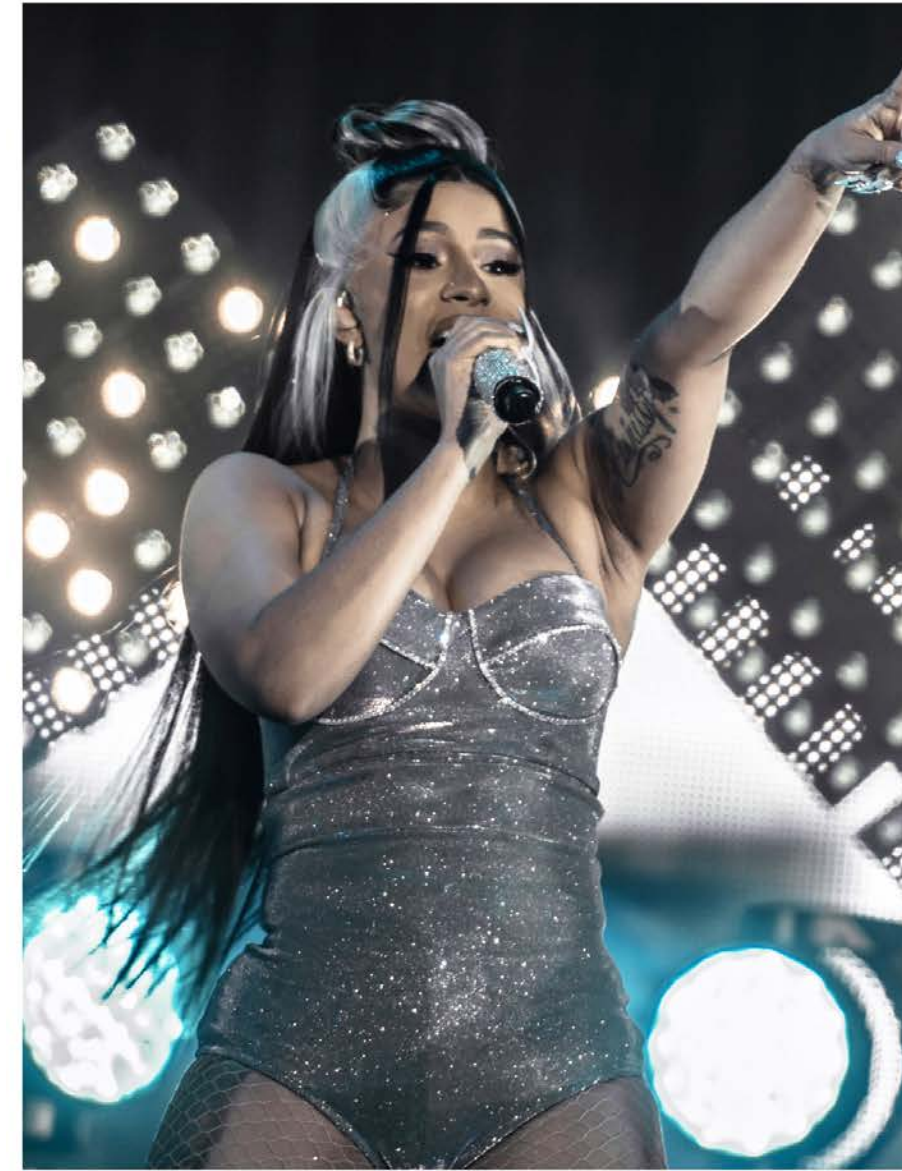
In this lesson you will:

- Explore how artists Cardi B, Bad Bunny, Miguel, and Selena Gomez have taken up activism to spread awareness about issues they care about
- Identify how people of any age and position can raise awareness on social issues and participate in activism
- Discover the privatization of public beaches in Puerto Rico and the ramifications for the people who live there
- Investigate immigration issues in 2016 and after in terms of immigrant detention centers
- Consider issues facing undocumented immigrants in the U.S., such as potential deportation, a twenty year wait for a green card, and the separation of families
- Consider issues facing communities of color in the Bronx borough of New York City, and why filling out the census is important

On a scratch piece of paper, answer the following questions:

- What is an activist?
- What kind of work does an activist do?

Choose one of the following four artists to explore how contemporary Latin artists are pursuing activism and change in their communities. After making your selection, go to the corresponding slide number and follow the instructions. And if you have time, investigate more than one artist!



Bad Bunny

Review the [Document Set - Bad Bunny](#) and use it to answer the questions on the [Handout - Bad Bunny](#) (start video at minute 15:30 and play to the end).



Bad Bunny

Review the [Document Set - Cardi B](#) and use it to answer the questions on the [Handout - Cardi B](#).



Miguel

Review the [Document Set - Miguel](#) and use it to answer the questions on the [Handout - Miguel](#).



Selena Gomez

Review the [Document Set - Selena Gomez](#) and use it to answer the questions on the [Handout - Selena Gomez](#)



Do you think the issue addressed by the artist you looked at is new to the Latin American community or is it a historical issue?

Complete the handout below that corresponds to the artist(s) you reviewed to analyze a historical connection.

- **Bad Bunny** - [Comparing Raphael Hernandez's "Lamento Borincano" and Bad Bunny's "Mi Puerto Rico"](#)
- **Cardi B** - [Comparing Héctor Lavoe and Cardi B's Use of "Mi Gente"](#)
- **Miguel** - [Comparing Alice Bag's "Programmed" with Miguel's "Now"](#)
- **Selena Gomez** - [Comparing Woody Guthrie's "Deportee" with Selena Gomez's Time Magazine Op-Ed](#)

Become an Activist!

Complete the [Handout - Activist Action Plan](#) to explore a social issue you feel passionate about and create an action plan to raise awareness and promote change.

SUMMARY

- Music and music videos can be used to raise awareness and promote change in society
- Artists are using their various platforms (producing documentaries, social media posts, etc. to raise awareness and promote change)
- Activism takes many different forms from protesting, donating money, and working with social justice organizations
- Anyone, no matter their age or position in society can take part in activism

BE CREATIVE

Follow through with the social issue action plan drafted in class, and report the progress that has been achieved.

BE CURIOUS

Miguel's song "Now" mentions other social issues in 2016-2017. Read the lyrics, and research the other issues Miguel mentions in the song.

Conduct further research on the current issues facing the people of Puerto Rico.

Watch the first episode of *Living Undocumented*, and write a short summary of the episode.

Research how Cardi B's money was used in her Bronx middle school, and the impact it made.

CONNECT

Share it with us! Either you or an adult in your life can share your work with TeachRock on **Instagram** or **Facebook**, email to **info@teachrock.org**, tweet it to **@TeachRock**, or make an Instagram post and tag us **@teachrock.org**



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