

Breaking The Chains Facilitator's Guide - Vol 9.1
Suggested length: 2.5 hours

Objectives:

- Help participants gain a greater understanding of the role of socialist intervention in bourgeois elections
- Allow participants to make personal connections to the material in the magazine
- Draw inspiration and lessons from historical examples

Materials:

- Chart paper. 1 for the guiding question and more for brainstormed questions during the video
- Markers for chart paper
- Copies of the magazine for each participant
- Slides, projector, speakers, internet connection
- Suggested materials: note paper and pens/pencils/highlighters for participants, name tags, post its
- Slide deck

Before session starts

- Write each question on a separate piece of chart paper and hang them so all participants can see each.
- Be sure you understand the terminology used in the questions so you can answer questions about the guiding and anchoring questions.
- Test slide deck and video. Leave slide 1 on as participants arrive

Opening
5 minute

Slide 2
Facilitator says: *"Hello. My name is _____. Welcome to our study session for Vol 9 No.1 of Breaking the Chains Magazine. Let's review our agenda and guiding question before we begin."*
Review the agenda

Introduction
15 minutes

Slide 3
Facilitator says: *"Take one minute to introduce yourself and in one sentence, tell the group how you're feeling about the current Presidential election."*
Demonstrate by telling the group your name, pronouns, affiliation with the PSL and then answer the question.

Guiding Activity
5 minutes to read and 10 minutes for discussion

Slide 4
Facilitator says: *"We're going to start with a quote from Shirley Chisolm. There is an article about her in the magazine that we won't get to today but let's orient ourselves using her reflection about her presidential campaign in the 1972 election. I will read the quote. As I'm reading take notes or write down questions. Make connections to your own experience."*
Allow 10 minutes of discussion about what resonates from the quote.

Anchoring Question
1 minute

Slide 5
Facilitator says: *"Why do socialists run in the Presidential election? This guiding question will be the foundation of our discussion. As we continue, we will keep coming back to this."*
The terminology may need to be explained depending on the level of experience of the participants.

Video and Discuss
3 minutes for the video
5-10 minutes of discussion

Slide 6
Facilitator says: *"This video may be familiar to you if you are familiar with the Claudia and Karina campaign, but we're going to take a few minutes to watch and write down some of our thoughts. What questions come up for you as you watch this?"*
Play the video. At the end ask folks to share their thoughts and write down any questions

	that participants might have on the chart paper.
Centerfold introduction 5 minutes to read	<p>Slide 7</p> <p>Facilitator says: <i>“Next we’re going to take a look at the centerfold titled Why We Need to Build a Socialist Movement. You can find that on page 17. After this introduction we’ll have a few minutes for quiet reading before we discuss. Would anyone like to volunteer to read the introduction?”</i></p> <p>Read together: Socially reproductive work is indispensable yet unpaid</p> <p>Facilitator says: <i>“Let’s use our anchoring question to guide our discussion of the article.”</i></p> <p>Gauge the participants’ eagerness to share and either ask each question as you did for the discussion after the video or allow a more free-flowing discussion but write their thoughts on the corresponding chart.</p>
Read and Share 5 minutes to assign sections 5 minutes for quiet reading 5 minutes for partner discussion 5 minutes for group discussion	<p>Slide 8</p> <p>Facilitator says: <i>“Let’s go around and assign each person 2 or 3 points of the Vote Socialist Program found in the centerfold. After a few minutes, I will invite you to turn to the person next to you and discuss when you’ve read. Then we can discuss as a group.”</i></p> <p>Assign all 7 points so each person reads 2 or 3. After 5 minutes, invite participants to share what they read with a partner. After 5 minutes of discussion ask if anyone would like to share something that resonated with them that they read or that came up in discussion.</p> <p>Check to see if any of the questions written on the chart paper were answered and mark it off.</p>
Temperature Check	<p>Slide 9</p> <p>Facilitator asks: <i>“We’ve been sitting for quite a while. We’re about half way through our agenda. Should we take a 5-minute break?”</i></p>
Read and Share 10-15 minutes	<p>Slide 10</p> <p>Facilitator says: <i>“We’re going to do another collaborative learning activity. For the next few minutes you are going to read an article. At the end I’ll ask a volunteer to summarize.”</i></p> <p>If there are at least 6 participants: If there are enough participants, put people in pairs or groups to read together. Each group will only read one of the 3 articles. Each group will share about the article they read to share what was learned. Participants can read the articles to themselves or read them aloud together. After 10 minutes check to see the progress of the groups. Give them a reminder that you will call on a volunteer to summarize so groups should come to a common understanding of the article before that.</p> <p>If there are fewer than 6 participants: Participants should read the article to themselves and share at the end.</p>
Discussion 15 minutes	<p>Slide 11</p> <p>Facilitator says: <i>“Would someone who read “Revolutionary optimism and building a socialist party” please summarize the article briefly?”</i> Give an attendee the opportunity to share their summary.</p> <p>Facilitator says: <i>“Would someone who read “Women’s role in building socialist democracies?”</i> Give an attendee the opportunity to share their summary.</p> <p>Facilitator says: <i>“Would someone who read “Capitalist democracy is a sham for all, especially working women” please summarize the article briefly?”</i> Give an attendee the opportunity to share their summary.</p>

	<p>Facilitator says: <i>“Let’s discuss each of these a bit further. In what ways is the United States not a democracy? What would be different about a socialist democracy?”</i> Give all attendees the opportunity to participate.</p> <p>Facilitator says: <i>“What material challenges can we identify were working against the movement for peace? What political forces were at work?”</i> Give all attendees the opportunity to participate.</p> <p>Facilitator says: <i>“What unifying ideas helped the movement grow?”</i> Give all attendees the opportunity to participate.</p>
<p>Read and Share 20 minutes</p>	<p>Slide 12 Facilitator says: <i>“We’re almost finished so let’s take a look at an article that will answer our guiding question directly. Next we’re going to read the article titled <u>Reform, Revolution, and the Question of Elections</u> on page 7. I’ll ask for volunteers to take turns reading each paragraph. When we finish the article we’ll come back to our anchoring question. Would anyone like to volunteer to read the first paragraph?”</i> Read together: <i>Reform, Revolution, and the Question of Elections</i> Facilitator says: <i>“Let’s use our anchoring question to guide our discussion of the article.”</i></p>
<p>Final Excerpt 10-15 minutes</p>	<p>Slide 13 Facilitator says: <i>“As a closing activity and to wrap up all we’ve discussed today, let’s read the final section on page 36 “Toward a socialist future.” Would anyone like to volunteer to start?”</i> This excerpt is an energizing and motivating but straightforward section. Gauge the feeling in the room after the reading. If participants are feeling energized and motivated, it might make sense to go right into your announcements and future events to keep momentum moving forward. If it seems like participants are eager to participate, spend time discussing this section.</p>
<p>Closing</p>	<p>Slide 14 Facilitator says: <i>“Thank you for joining us today. This has been a very rich discussion.</i> End the session and ask participants to hand in their post-its with thoughts or questions we didn’t get to discuss. Ask them to add their names if they would like us to follow up with them about their thoughts or questions. Make any announcements about upcoming events if you have not already and thank participants for attending.</p>