

Banner Drop

Occupation of an educational institution by its students, teachers or staff members is, even now, still a potential way to exercise autonomy, community and refusal – an exercise worth equally, if not primarily, attention in any educational curriculum.

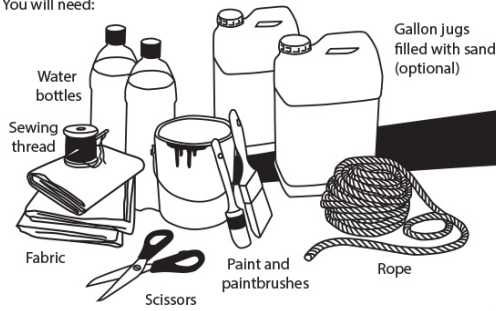
The Banner Drop can function as a form of flag-raising on this new occupied territory – a clear message, rooted in this political occupation, waving with the fabric in the wind. The Banner Drop can also function as a brief hack into the formal realities of the everyday practice of institutionalized society.

The shock of the defiant proclamation unwantedly unfolding upon the architecture of the normal situation enables a moment of contrary imagery – the proclaimed truth of one situation is suddenly superimposed with a different truth. The fabric of commonly promoted uncomplicated reality is ripped by the multi-layered other.

The practice of counter-disciplinary conduct requires practical skill-sets to be learned and taught on throughout the community. One of these skills, if still only one small tool in a much larger and growing toolbox, is the action of the Banner Drop. Learning these tools and learning to share-on this knowledge should be obligatory in the general education of any young individual.

BANNER DROP

You will need:



When deciding on size, keep in mind transport to the place of use, dimensions of area where banner will be dropped, and distance from where it will be seen.

Draw a sectioned scale model of the image or statement you wish to paint, mark off matching sections proportionately on the banner, and use these as guides. Keep in mind that paint will most certainly soak through the fabric. Refrain from using spraypaint unless you are especially skilled with this. Make sure colors are striking and high-contrast and images similarly easy to discern. Above all be careful of spelling mistakes.



Cutting U-shaped wind holes in the fabric will allow wind to pass through. The cuts do not have to be evenly spaced, but do try to avoid fucking up letters or graphics.

Fold edges of banner over equal lengths of rope, and sew the fabric around it. Run the thread through both rope and banner, so the banner won't just slip off when turned vertical. Make sure to leave plenty rope at the top. At the bottom attach your filled water bottles.

Roll your banner up bottom first, with the water bottles inside and the text facing the inside of the roll. Practice which way your banner unrolls before action. Be careful not to roll your banner too tightly, especially as the paint, even dry, can make it stiff and sticky - it may not unroll all the way down when you drop it.

For your final action a team of two is usually best. Pick a time and location where the visibility balances out the risk. Transport your banner in such a way that you know exactly how to orient it when your moment comes. Unless you have time to secure with knots, consider using padlocks or carabineers.

You can also use a pair of shoes as weights or other fitting objects.



Plan your exit carefully. Dress as nondescriptly as possible. Scout the area ahead of time. If it proves impossible to avoid all CCTV cameras, make sure to bring a change of clothes, glasses, a hat, a reversible jacket, or other accessories to disguise your identity. Good luck.

