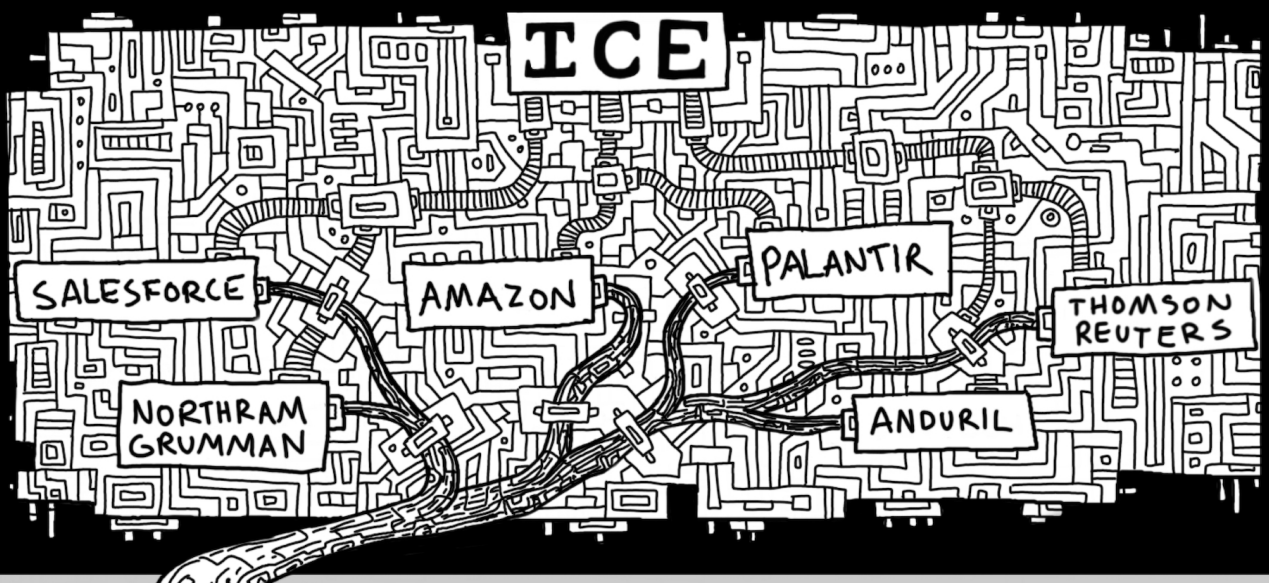

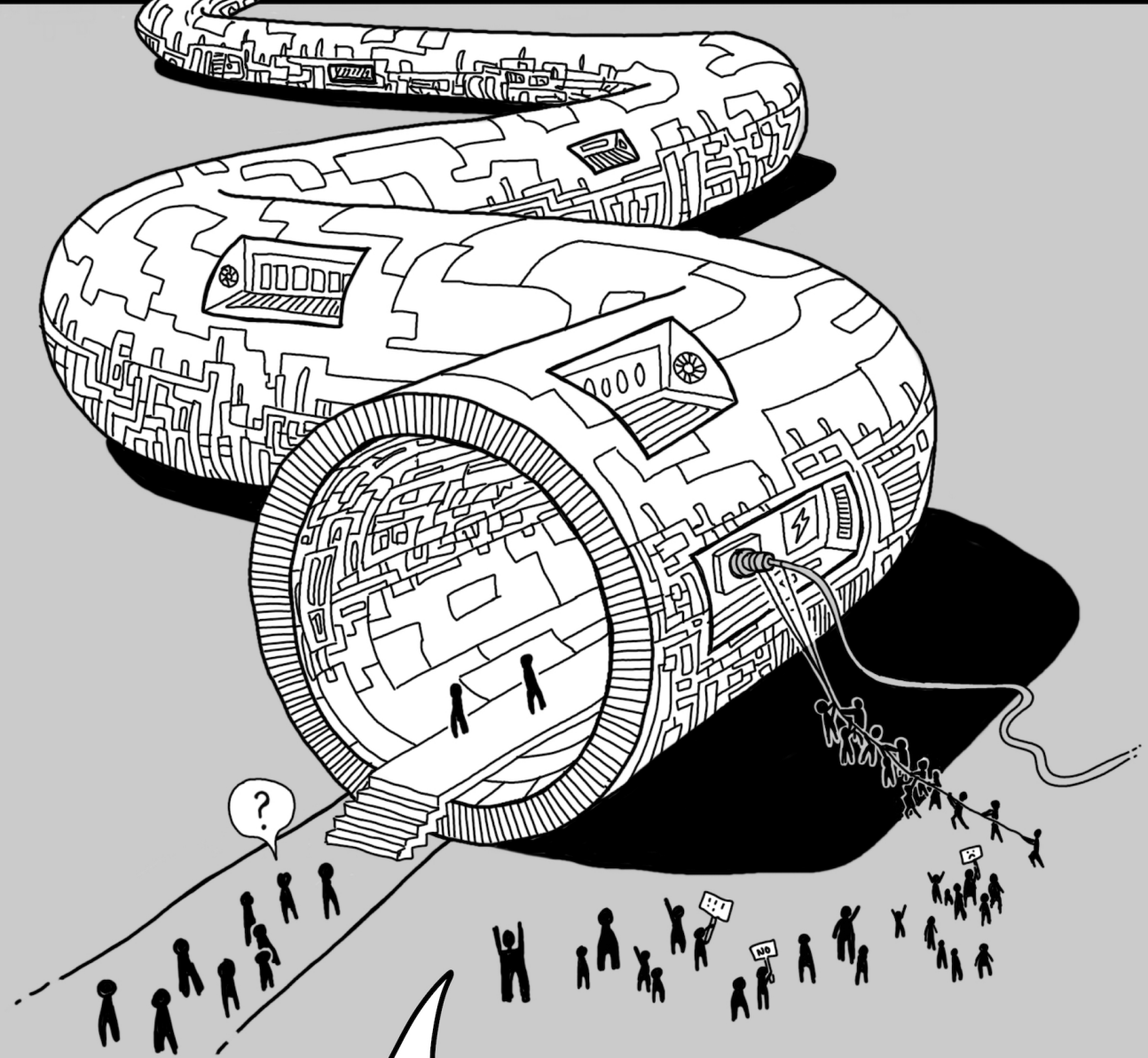

STOP THE TECH-TALENT PIPLINE!

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MIJENTE

Mijente is a digital and grassroots hub for Latinx and Chicanx movement-building and organizing. As the Latinx population in the United States steadily increases, our community will need a dedicated effort to ensure our power increases as well.

Demographic increases do not automatically mean increases in power, and Mijente seeks to create a political home for strategists, media makers, cultural workers, action-takers, writers, base-builders, theorists, and others to connect, sharpen, and forge that power. If you are Latinx/Chicanx and share our pro-pueblo values, join us at members.mijente.net or contact welcome@mijente.net to learn more about Mijente membership.

WE ARE PRO-LATINX, BUT ALSO
PRO-WOMAN, PRO-BLACK, PRO-QUEER,
PRO-TRANS, PRO-INDIGENOUS
PRO-WORKER AND PRO-EARTH

SLAP

SLAP: Students for the Liberation of All People is an anti-racist, anti-capitalist organization on Stanford campus mobilizing students to directly support different liberation movements, including our work with Mijente on #NoTechforICE this past year. We represent the communities we serve and aim to educate, organize, and work to build a sustained radical movement against injustice.

ARTIST

A special thank you to **Alejandro Delacosta** for the incredible art throughout this toolkit. You can follow Ale on Instagram **@aledelacosta**

@CONMIJENTE

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WHY #NOTECHFORICE

For years, we've been fighting the unjust immigration system in this country. When we noticed that ICE was scaling up its operations, invading people's homes, workplaces, and communities, we started trying to figure out how undocumented immigrants were being monitored and tracked like never before. We learned that immigration enforcement is booming business for Silicon Valley tech companies. They build digital tools and gather personal data, which enables the government to pursue immigrants and build out its detention and deportation machinery.

In 2018, we launched our No Tech for ICE campaign to disrupt this cozy alliance by exposing what's happening, who's to blame, and the billions of dollars that are taking precedence over people's lives. But going up against Big Tech is going to take a powerful mass movement made up of immigrants, tech workers, computer science students, academics, activists, and many others.

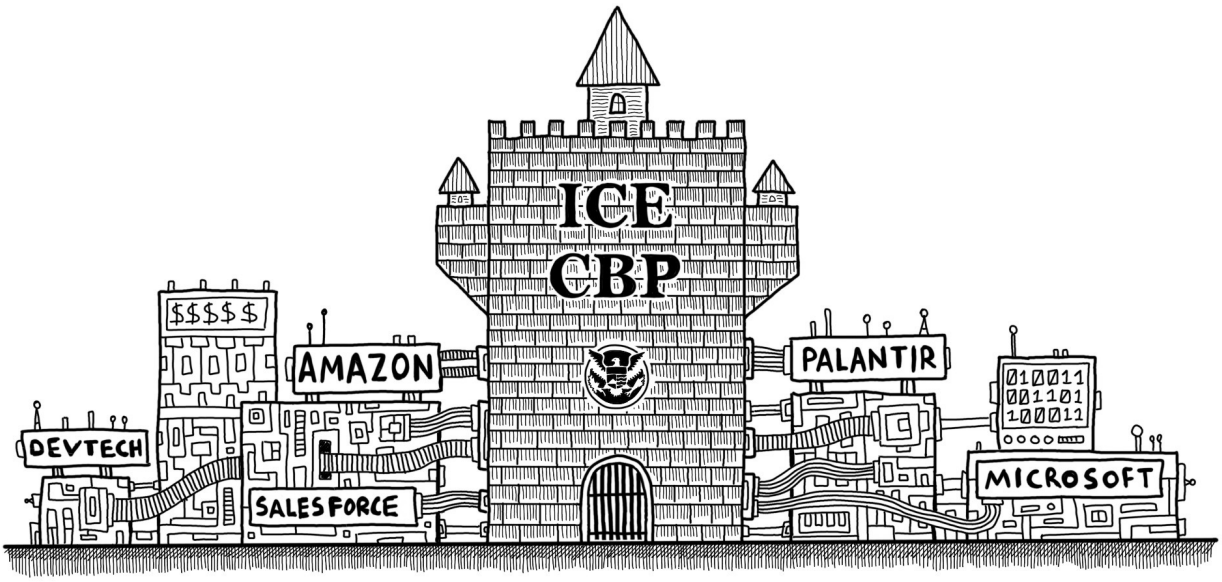
College and university students are especially critical to this fight. Tech companies rely on colleges and universities to give them the talent pool they need to work on these types of government contracts. Join the fight to block these companies' recruitment efforts on your campus. Cutting off the pipeline is one way we can stand with immigrant communities and organize for #NoTechforICE!!

Immigration enforcement in the U.S. is carried out by two agencies:

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT	ICE conducts raids and arrests people en masse from workplaces, schools, homes, shops, restaurants – anywhere inside the country immigration agent might track them. ICE has a sprawling network of detention centers housing tens of thousands of asylum-seekers and migrants, often in deplorable conditions.
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION	CBP works at the border, turning migrants back and maintaining camps that house thousands of newly-arrived people.

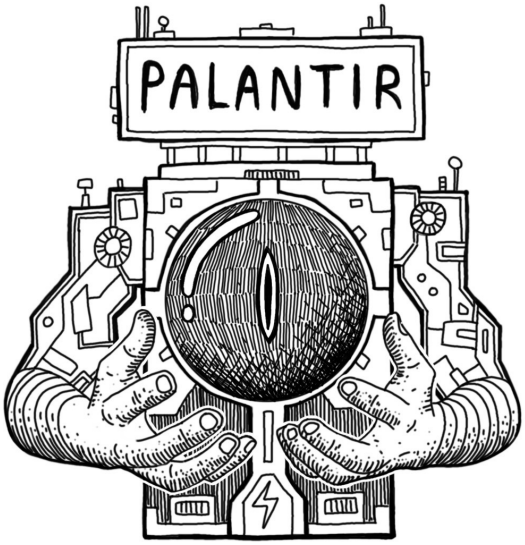
Both are part of the Department of Homeland Security, and both have a lot of allies in Silicon Valley, including Palantir, Amazon, Thomson-Reuters, LexisNexis, Microsoft and Salesforce.

Silicon Valley often gets a pass on these collaborations, but it shouldn't. We need to generate enough pressure against these companies to stop their aiding and abetting human rights abuses.



We've chosen to focus particularly on two companies: Palantir and Amazon.

Palantir's software directly advances the immigration crackdown that has proliferated in the United States under both the Obama and Trump administrations. It has been called "mission critical" for ICE's abilities to build profiles of and track undocumented people. It was used at the border during the height of family separation to aid in the arrests of 443 people who were swept up by agents targeting the families of children who crossed the border alone. It was also used in planned nationwide raids, where ICE agents were all instructed to download a mobile version of Palantir's software for easy use.

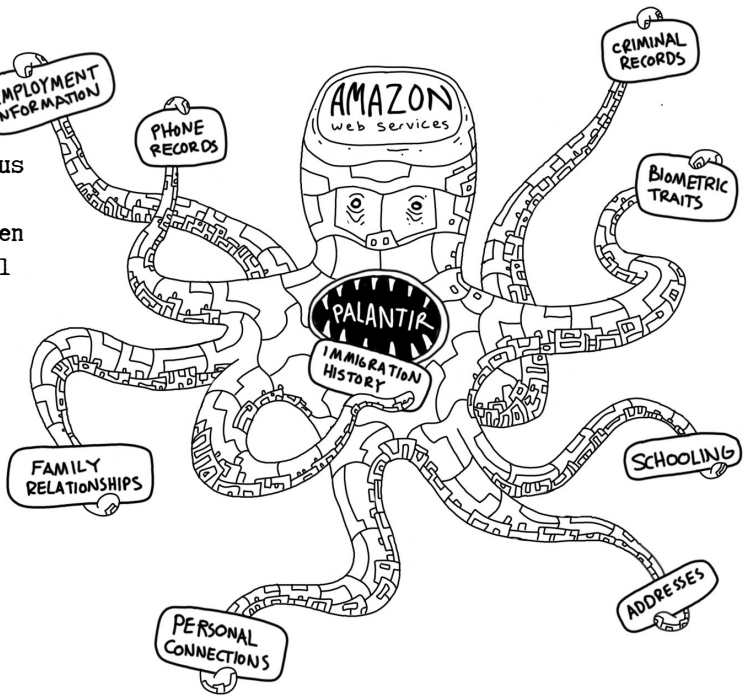


Given Palantir's intimate ties with immigration enforcement, the cancellation of its ICE contract would have an immediate impact on the lives of undocumented people in this country.

Amazon directly supports Palantir by hosting the software it provides to ICE on its sprawling cloud storage system, Amazon Web Services. AWS is, in fact, the hidden backbone behind not just immigration enforcement, but many of DHS's nationwide capabilities: Amazon has more federal authorizations to handle confidential data than any other company, allowing it to host core data systems for immigration authorities, including the retention of at least 230 million biometric records — irises, facial records, fingerprints, and more.

Amazon is also actively looking to sell facial recognition software to ICE, opening up a dangerous frontier where the law enforcement agency most involved in fascist, door-to-door roundups is given access to an untested, biased technology that will threaten the civil liberties of millions.

Amazon's work with immigration authorities is far less known but more lucrative and entrenched. Targeting the company teaches people that Silicon Valley's work advances the deportation machine in less than obvious ways. A victory against Amazon would change what people think is possible in organizing against tech company collaboration.



TAKE ACTION ON CAMPUS

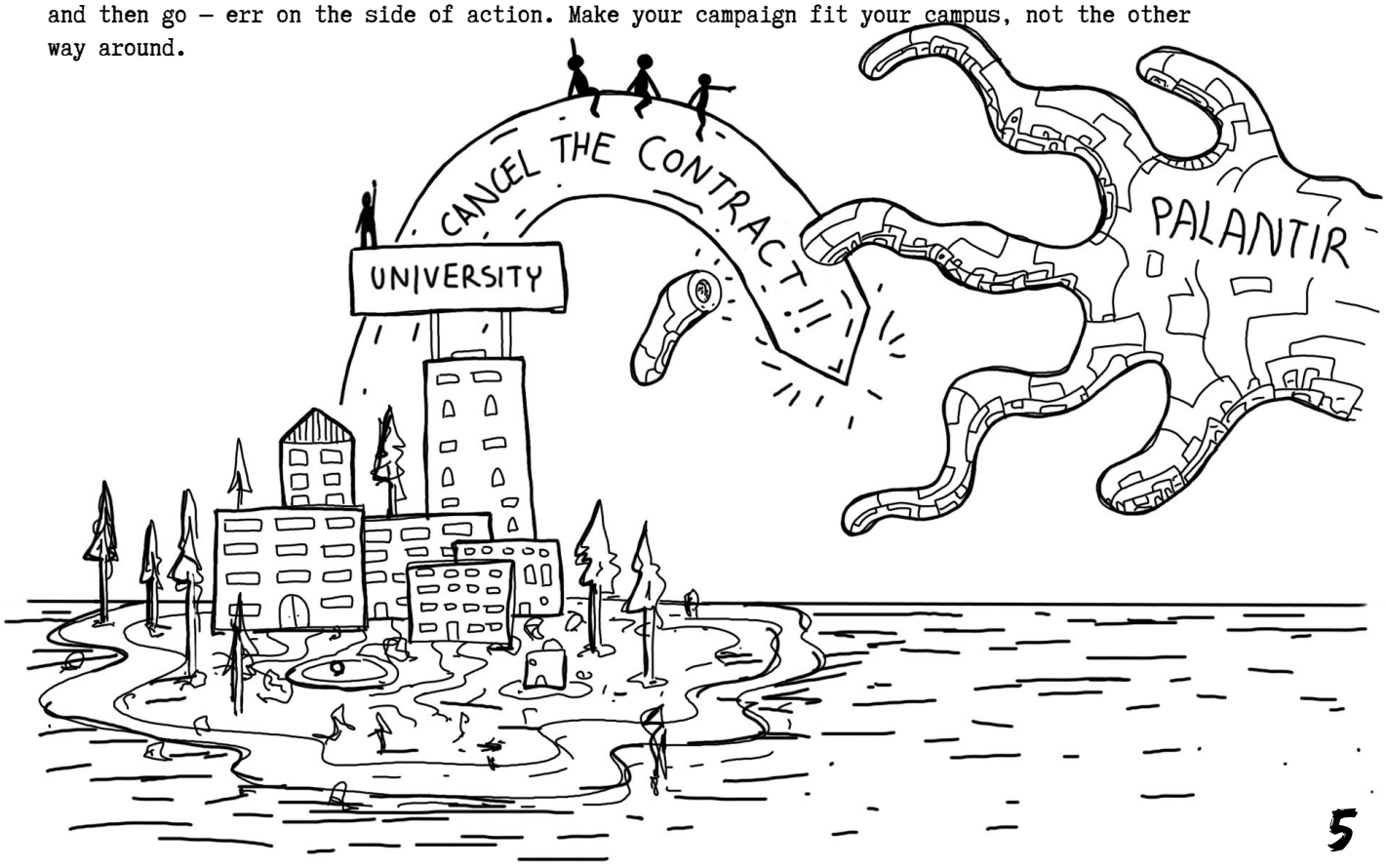
Tech companies are often deeply entrenched in university campuses. Many pay tens of thousands of dollars annually for corporate partnerships, allowing them special access to students through career fairs, recruitment sessions, on-campus workshops, and more. Even if no formal partnerships exist, these companies often recruit heavily from universities and maintain a robust pipeline from computer science programs to corporate headquarters. They can only survive if new recruits are eager to work with them, so students have unique leverage to change corporate behavior.

This toolkit shares the facts about the role of tech companies in immigration enforcement and provides different tactics we've found effective when mobilizing students to take action.

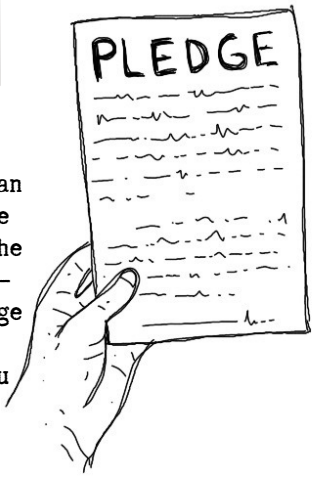
Pressuring your university to cut its ties to a particular company that's engaged in unethical behavior is one of the most effective things you can do. Palantir, for example, has partnerships with computer science departments across the country. Students can form campaigns to drop Palantir as a corporate partner of their school, writing letters to university administrators or protesting career fairs where Palantir recruits students.

Students organizing their campuses is a key strategy. If more and more schools drop Amazon or Palantir as a corporate sponsor, these companies will start paying attention. It will become less lucrative for them to keep these contracts if it's costing them talent in the form of new recruits.

Each university will be different, and each corporate target may require some but not all of the tactics outlined below — or ones that aren't discussed here at all. The point of this toolkit is not to be exhaustive, but to give you some basic tools you might use to gin up opposition to your university's ties. This is a jumping-off point: Get creative, map it out, and then go — err on the side of action. Make your campaign fit your campus, not the other way around.



TACTICS + ACTIONS



Draft a pledge letter

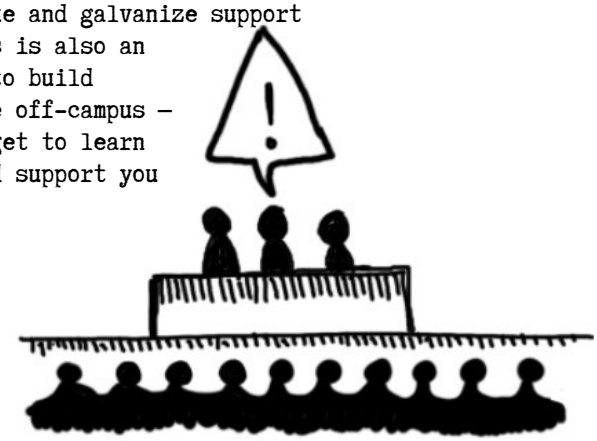
Outline your demands, find your supporters, decide on an audience, and then write, write, write. You must choose signatories that are most strategic — whether that's the student body as a whole, certain professors, whomever — and then get as many of them onboard as possible. Pledge letters are effective ways of showing the company itself, the university, or the public at large that you have organized to say: Not in our name.

Protest opposing company speakers

Companies often send speakers to university campuses, and protesting these speakers is a surefire way to raise awareness of your campaign and put pressure on the company involved. But remember to know your issue: Often these speakers are the ones most well-versed in their company's controversial positions, so they'll come prepared to defend themselves.

Organize a panel

It's likely that others have thought long and hard about your issue in the past, and inviting them to an on-campus panel helps educate students, professors, and community members about your issue and galvanize support for your campaign. This is also an excellent opportunity to build connections with people off-campus — invited speakers will get to learn about your campaign and support you in the future.

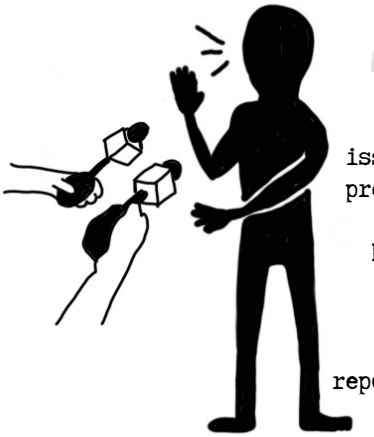


Organize a protest

Once your campaign has developed its demands and garnered enough support from the campus community, a protest can be a strong showing of force for your issue. Hone your message, get creative with your visuals, ally with different groups, and call it – it can be dozens- or hundreds-strong, a protest ensures people take notice and fortifies those who already support you.

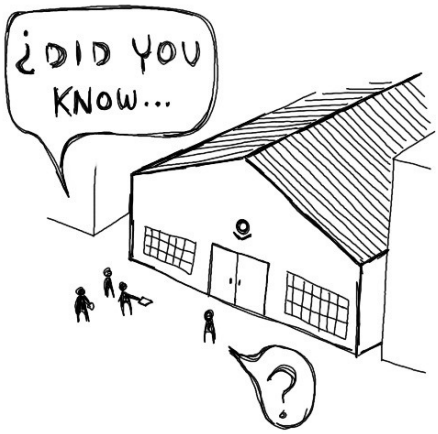
Organize a sit-in

If you've tried several tactics and you're not seeing movement, a sit-in can help force the issue. Bring a bunch of students to a university administrator's office or block the entrance to company headquarters – but remember, the police will defend private property, so make sure you've gotten legal advice.



Talk to the press and write an op-ed

Reporters help keep people informed about your issue and amplify it far beyond campus. Without a press strategy, you may be doing some of the most important work in the country, but no one will hear about it. Find the reporters writing about your issue, reach out to them, and keep them updated when you organize a protest or draft a letter. Companies get scared when they see reporters snooping around. Writing an op-ed can be another great way to getting your message out!



Flyer outside company headquarters

Often, workers at tech companies don't know how management has decided to use their products and services or their real-world impact. Flyering is one of the most low-cost, effective methods of reaching these workers. If your targeted company is near campus, just a few people armed with a simply-worded flyer can reach dozens of employees during morning hours. Be polite, offer your flyer, and move on – the point is to get your message in front of workers, not cause a scene.

READ UP THEN TURN UP!

#NoTechforICE notechforice.mijente.net

“Who’s Behind ICE? The Tech Companies Fueling Deportations” – Mijente’s report on the tech companies supporting the federal immigration crackdown, online at https://mijente.net/notechforice/

“Palantir Played Key Role in Arresting Families for Deportation, Document Shows” – Mijente’s blog post on documents obtained via Freedom of Information Act request that showed Palantir’s role in separating families at the border, online at mijente.net/palantirlies

“Blueprint for Terror: How ICE Planned its Largest Immigration Raid in History” – Mijente’s blog post on documents we released showing how ICE agents prepared for the largest planned raid in history and how Palantir was to be used during the raid, online at https://mijente.net/icepapers/

"Palantir Provides the Engine for Donald Trump’s Deportation Machine” – The Intercept’s story that first revealed Palantir’s contracts with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, online at mijente.net/intercept2017

"Palantir Knows Everything About You” – Bloomberg’s piece outlining how Palantir’s software works, its history, and where it’s all headed, online at mijente.net/bloomberg2018

"Stop Coding State Violence – A comprehensive campaign platform" from S.L.A.P. – Students for the Liberation of All People – at Stanford outlining the philosophy and tactics behind an anti-ICE campaign on campus, online at mijente.net/slapcampaign

"Inside Palantir: Silicon Valley’s Most Secretive Company – One of the first deep-dives into Palantir’s business history" from Buzzfeed detailing early turmoil at the firm, online at mijente.net/buzzfeed2016

"Palantir Has Secretly Been Using New Orleans to Test Its Predictive Policing Technology – The Verge’s investigation into how Palantir software was used in New Orleans – unbeknownst to public officials – for predictive policing," online at mijente.net/theverge2018

"Student Groups Don’t Want Salesforce And Palantir On Campus" online at mijente.net/buzzfeed2019