

What Kind of Change Maker Are You?

Read across. Circle the statement you agree with

I want to work on global issues, coordinating people around the world to take action

I want to work in one community where I can really build long-lasting relationships with other people

I'm interested in problems that affect a broad cross-section of the population

I'm interested in problems that affect a particular group of people

I believe in making up a campaign as we go

I believe in planning things out and thinking ahead

I want to get something done that quickly that grabs attention and builds awareness

I want to get something done slowly that creates relationships and builds capacity

I believe people appreciate leadership and being given specific tasks to complete

I believe people appreciate being included in decision-making

Success for me means changing the laws, policies, or regulations

Success for me means changing how people think about an issue

I prefer to create change by working within the system and with those that have power

I prefer to create change by working outside the system by confronting those that have power

Working for change is most effective when people have a common enemy to work against

Working for change is most effective when people have a common vision to work for

I'd rather mobilize people who have the same worldview.

I'd rather build alliances with people who have a different worldview.

Look for a pattern in your reactions and responses to these questions. Note if you feel really strongly about one or two of the questions above. What do your answers suggest about your contribution to making America a more perfect union?

Community organizer (def) - *a person whose job is to coordinate cooperative efforts and campaigning carried out by local residents to promote the interests of their community*

Some Things that All Community Organizers Do

Articulate a vision and the steps to get there

Connect people's interests and passions to the vision

Build on small victories

Identify and mobilize the assets at hand (e.g. people, knowledge, money)

Think about power different groups have in any situation

Think about how the interests of different individuals and groups overlap

Use the media to tell stories and frame problems

Build trust and honor relationships

Create a sense of belonging and collective identity

Find simple ways to explain complex issues and problems

Think carefully about who and how decisions are made

Bring enthusiasm to the work and try to make it fun