

Breaking The Chains Facilitator's Guide - Vol 8.1  
Suggested length: 2 hours

Objectives:

- Help participants gain a greater understanding of the political economy as raised in the latest issue of the magazine
- 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 3 for the anchoring questions
- Markers for chart paper
- Copies of the magazine for each participant
- Slides, projector, speakers, internet connection
- Suggested materials: notepaper and pens/pencils/highlighters for participants, name tag, post its

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 minutes

Slide 2  
Facilitator says: *"Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. Welcome to our study session for Vol 8.1 of Breaking the Chains Magazine. Let's review our agenda and guiding question before we begin."*  
Review the agenda and guiding question. About the guiding question say, *"Our Guiding Question is going to guide all of our discussions. Keep this guiding question in mind. We'll revisit this question at the end of our session. We have a lot of material to cover so please take some post-its to write your thoughts or questions if we don't get a chance to get to all of them. You'll be able to add them to our charts later."*

Introduction 15 minutes

Slide 3  
Facilitator says: *"Take one minute to introduce yourself and talk about your experience with and comfort discussing political and economic theory."* Tell the group something relevant about yourself. This can include pronouns, professions, hobbies, etc.

Article 1 10 minutes to read and 10 minutes for discussion

Slide 4  
Facilitator says: *"We're going to start with the letter from the editor. I'll ask for volunteers to take turns reading each paragraph. As we're reading take notes or underline anything that resonates with you. Make connections to your own experience."*  
Read together: **From the Editor**  
Allow 10 minutes of discussion about what resonates from the letter.

Anchoring Questions 5 minutes

Slide 5  
Facilitator says: *"We read these questions as the guiding questions the editors had in mind as they put this issue of the magazine together. We're going to use these questions to help anchor our discussions for the rest of the session."*  
Point to each of the questions on each piece of chart paper and ask for a volunteer to read each one. Ask if anyone needs clarification about the questions after each is read. The terminology may need to be explained depending on the level of experience of the participants.

Interview with Shailly Barnes 6 minutes for the

Slide 6  
Facilitator says: *"Let's watch a clip of an interview with economist and Policy Director for the Poor People's Campaign Shailly Barnes."* **Stop the video at the 5:54 mark after she answers the first question.**

<p>video 5-10 minutes of discussion</p>	<p>Facilitator says: <i>“Let’s use our anchoring question to guide our discussion of the video. What are the political and economic structures that shape our lives?”</i> Chart the answers (3-4 minutes) then move to the next chart.</p> <p>Facilitator says: <i>“Let’s continue. What historical developments have affected the political and economic structures of the society we live in?”</i> Chart the answers (3-4 minutes) then move to the next chart.</p> <p>Facilitator says: <i>“How do the struggles of our class shape history even as we are oppressed by the political and economic structures of our time?”</i> Chart the answers (3-4 minutes) then end this section.</p> <p>Facilitator says: <i>“Thank you for participating in this great conversation. Remember, we have a lot of material to get through so please write down any thoughts we didn’t get a chance to hear and we’ll add them to the charts later.”</i></p>
<p>Article 2 10 minutes to read and 10 minutes for discussion</p>	<p>Slide 7</p> <p>Facilitator says: <i>“Next, we’re going to read the article titled <u>Socially reproductive work is indispensable yet unpaid</u>. I’ll ask for volunteers to take turns reading each paragraph. When we finish the article, we’ll come back to our anchoring questions. Keep them in mind as we read. Would anyone like to volunteer to read the first paragraph?”</i></p> <p>Read together: <b>Socially reproductive work is indispensable yet unpaid</b></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 question but write their thoughts on the corresponding chart.</p>
<p>Temperatur e check</p>	<p>Slide 8</p> <p>Facilitator asks: <i>“We’ve been sitting for quite a while. Our last section is reading excerpts from 3 articles in the magazine. Should we take a 5-minute break? We’ll end our study session shortly after that.”</i></p>
<p>Article 3 10-15 minutes for each excerpt with discussion</p>	<p>Slide 9</p> <p>Facilitator says: <i>“Next, we’re going to read excerpts from a few articles in the magazine. I’ll ask for volunteers to take turns reading each paragraph. When we finish the article or section we’ll come back to our anchoring questions. Keep them in mind as we read. Would anyone like to volunteer to read the first paragraph?”</i></p> <p>Start at the top of page 21 "According to a 2020..." and finish the article Guide the conversation back to the anchoring questions. Point to the charts and say, <i>“With the anchoring questions in mind would anyone like to share their thoughts?”</i></p> <p>After the conversation say, <i>“Let’s move on to our next excerpt. Would anyone like to volunteer to read the first paragraph?”</i> Start in the middle of page 24 "Inflation takes the heaviest toll..." and finish the article Guide the conversation back to the anchoring questions. Point to the charts and say, <i>“With the anchoring questions in mind would anyone like to share their thoughts?”</i></p> <p>After the conversation say, <i>“Let’s move on to our next excerpt. Would anyone like to volunteer to read the first paragraph?”</i> Start on page 26 with the section "The important lesson of Roe v. Wade" and read the next two sections ending with the sentence "They put down the tools of militant struggle and threw their weight behind the Democrats." Guide the conversation back to the anchoring questions. Point to the charts and say, <i>“With the anchoring questions in mind would anyone like to share their thoughts?”</i></p>
<p>Closing</p>	<p>Slide 10</p>

5-10 minutes	<p>Facilitator says: <i>“Thank you for joining us today. This has been a very rich discussion. Let’s close by revisiting our guiding question. What does capitalism gain from the special oppression of women?”</i></p> <p>Chart participant answers</p> <p>End the session and ask participants to add their post-it’s with thoughts or questions we didn’t get to the chart. Ask them to add their names if they would like us to follow up with them about their thought or question.</p>
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