

Turing, Italy ~ Schools Occupation!

(keep in mind I'm talking from the point of view of a secondary school student since I've only occupied my school :))

things to do **before** the occupation:

- public meeting → you can discuss problems related to school, environment... and decide if occupying would be a good way to act
- if so, found an organizing team → open but the people in it must be present and active
- pay attention not to share the decisions with someone against the occupation
- meet with other realities and schools interested → act in the same period, share knowledge and revendications, keep in contact
- meet together to program the occupation → decide where, when, how, the materials you'll need (megaphone, sleeping bags, chains to lock doors if necessary, garbage bags, snacks, stuff to write and draw...), the people who will moderate debates and will lead laboratories

important:

- bring all the stuff you need on the first day → sometimes it's not permitted to enter again the building after you have left

occupation day:

- call an extraordinary assembly → try to converge people in the place chosen (surprise effect could help, avoid saying it is an occupation)
- introduce problems, let everyone express themselves on them
- say you want to occupy → explain how it would be a good means to obtain or show something (we put the focus on reappropriation of students' spaces)
- vote (there raising hands, for people who are not participating with an online form) → if the majority is pro you can declare the building is occupied, if not you can still keep going
- collection → send a few to buy all the necessary
- establish rules
- found a security service
 - talk with director → explain what's happening and why (we specified we weren't acting against our school nor the staff but the system), negotiate (if you want/are in the conditions to) the places and the times
- hang a poster with the program of the day
- remain for the night, at least the ones who can

activities:

- groups to tackle the main problems → someone moderates them, should be informed
- plenary → share the conclusions among the groups, talk about them
- write a manifesto → everyone has the possibility to read and modify it, do local and national requests
- themed labs → if possible invite/host online experts
- labs to learn some skills (sewing, yoga...)
- call a plenary in case of news or communications

rules:

- don't let non-authorized people in → we controlled the electronic registers
- don't leave when the school day ends
- don't give the impression that you're only skipping school → do activities
- don't drink/smoke
- don't vandalize or break anything → legal consequences

- don't be violent
- practice civil disobedience if necessary
- if police comes, let the ones of legal age go speak to them

food:

- cook/prepare there all that you can
- the rest can be done by students who live nearby
- pay attention to allergies and needs
- convention with a nearby food place (?)
- use as many reusable items as you can

legality:

- occupation of public land → in Italy it's difficult to be accused, since students come from inside the school and are the people who use it
- interruption of public service → it is safer to let the lessons keep going and not to block any entrance
- don't damage anything
- maybe there could be disciplinary sanctions from the schools

communication with outside world:

- interviews → choose who does them and decide together the possible answers and the policy to maintain
- be clear
- social media → use them to share what's happening and to critique possible false information

at the **end:**

- organize/take part in a final act (demonstration, meeting...) → coordinate with other realities (we took part in Stati Generali to write requests and bring them to the minister)
- leave the place as you found it
- don't return to the everyday life you had before → publicise the manifesto and share it with school staff and students, keep in touch with the organizing team, found a collective, organize activities in the school related to what you have discussed