Young workers need a voice at the workplace, in the movement, and on the airwaves. What would it look like for us to take media into our own hands?

Join us at Labor Notes!

YOUNG WORKERS & MEDIA

Saturday, 4:15–6 Sydney

A training for speaking out about housing, healthcare, or student debt?

A student-worker collective of spoken word artists and writers?

Something else?

Contact us at YoungWorkerMedia@gmail.com or 267-607-9118.
Everyone agrees, in some sense, that young workers are the future of labor. But this doesn’t necessarily mean that we have a voice in the movement—or in the broader conversation about the future of living and working in the United States. So, we need our own media. Using media, we can elevate the voices of young workers, bring more voices into the mix, and build rank-and-file power. Young worker media can encompass the diverse identities of young workers and bridge the divide between union workers, non-union workers, and other young people.

We’re building a national committee of young worker leaders, communications people, and youth organizers committed to building young worker media capacity. The goal, at Labor Notes and beyond, is to bring a large, diverse group of people into the conversation. Labor Notes is the first convening of folks interested in using media to help build young worker power.

It can be a recurring podcast bringing together the stories and struggles of young workers across the country; coordinated shop-floor papers, written by and for young workers; a zine; a Google hangout; a Twitter campaign; a communications training for young worker caucuses; a collective of writers and communicators working to get out our voices in the media as we know it. We’re not committed to any one form or platform. First and foremost, we’re a committee of organizers working to build power.

Not much. We hear about our poor job prospects and huge college debt. We hear how young workers are apathetic, or lazy, or selfish. We don’t hear as much about our struggles, or our work, or what we value. When we do, it’s rarely we who get to tell the story. At our workplaces and in the movement, we need our voices to be heard, on our own terms.

A lot. Post-recession, the student, youth, and young worker movements have burst onto the scene. Our workplaces and our lives are changing, and we know it. We’re the generation of electronic medical records, standardized tests, “shared services,” lean production, temp jobs—and debt. And we’re not just a single population but many, with many stories to tell.

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