The Malala Project:
A Young Women In Activism Workshop

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The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to practice leadership through action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women’s Leadership’s website at http://iwl.rutgers.edu.
Who Is Malala?

● Face of the Pakistani movement that fights for the education of young women

● Survived an attack by the Taliban in which she was shot in the head

● At age 17, she is the youngest person to receive Nobel Peace Prize
The Major Problem:
Young women of color are silenced, then written out of narratives of activism. Beyond this, there are far too few spaces that allow young POC women to voice their frustrations and to gather with the intent of organizing.
Historical Context:

- The erasure of women of color from the narrative of the environmental movement
- The lack of political access amongst young folks under age eighteen
The Mini Problems:

- The Danger of a Single Story
- Ignored Groups & Ignoring Intersectionality
- Exercising My Own Privilege
The Pitfalls

- School bureaucracy makes outside resources inaccessible to students
- Outside forces made workshop inaccessible to students
Takeaway Lessons

● Make use of unexpected moments and opportunities

● Fight for horizontal leadership

● Constantly check privilege in the face of oppression
1. Intervening in Alienation: The Outcomes for Urban Youth of Participating in School Activism
2. NY Students Call on City and Mayoral Candidates to End School-to-Prison Pipeline at School Safety and
   Climate Hearing, April 2013
3. Creating an Empowering Multicultural Curriculum, Christine E. Sleeter
4. Race, Rubbish, and Resistance: Empowering Difference in Community Politics, Steven Gregory
   Cultural Anthropology, Vol. 8, No. 1 (Feb., 1993), pp. 24-48
5. Ginwright, Shawn. Beyond Resistance!: youth activism and community change : new democratic possibilities for
   Women of Color's Role in the Environmental Justice Movement." Jean Ait Belkhir, Race, Gender & Class