

## ABSTRACT

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Title: Student-Led Activism for Curricular Change in Higher Education: An Examination of General Education and the Student Voice Historically From the 1930s to Today

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Historically, students have commonly been catalysts for change. Whether they have been leading protests during the Civil Rights Movement or participating in walk outs of their classrooms, students have asserted their views and interests in a way that forces faculty and administration to listen. However, why is it that there has been so little written about students' role in the debate surrounding academic requirements? In this thesis, I argue the importance of student-led activism within a student's general education curriculum. Students are highly capable of enacting change, and faculty and administration need to have a better understanding of how to channel the "student voice" in general education reform. This thesis explores how general education differs across universities, and how by viewing the student voice historically, faculty and administration can recognize the significance of underrepresented agents in modern day curriculum reform.