



Amber - School Strike for Climate Change

This case study was transcribed from an interview. These are Amber's words and opinions.

What was your goal and what did you achieve?

I wanted to do a rally that shows the youth's voice for climate change and I did this by teaming with the School Strike for Climate Change team to organize the September 25th rally for *Fund Our Future, Not Gas*. First off, we had to do a lot of research on what is fracking and the main causes of that, especially looking at different opinions.

We talked to Young Labor and also some departments about it and we achieved a rally where there was around 300 people. We targeted Origin and SANTOS as they fund the mining in the Northern Territory. Everyone was pretty good and I learned a lot of skills this year so that's good.

What challenges did you face?

A lot of challenges I faced were accepting different people's opinions on the whole climate change issue such as my school didn't really support it. Also how to manage people who came up to me in the rallies who weren't very on our side, but I learned that we have to just accept each other's perspectives.

How did you respond to people who disagreed with your position?

The main people from the School Strike for Climate team went through marshalling training where we learned how to respond to them. We use lots of phrases where we say 'oh thank you for your opinion' and actually listening to them and not trying to fight or make anything bad happen. Accepting their perspective on what they thought.

Who did you work with?

We worked a lot with the Adelaide Council as well as SAPOL (SA Police). SAPOL were really good and they helped us block the roads and the traffic lights and kept order within the rally. We talked to the Department of Transportation about getting the tram line to stop and we talked to Adelaide Council about booking the squares for the rally. We used Hindmarsh Square, Victoria Square and then Parliament House - it was pretty big.

How many people were in your team?

It was a whole group of people that were working towards it. With the School Strike for Climate team, there were around 10 people that were the core, and then we joined with Extinction Rebellion and they helped marshal so there was about 30 marshals for that. We did some pairing with AYCC (*Australian Youth Climate Coalition*) as well and there were about 10 of them in South Australia.

How did you promote the rally?

A lot of our sharing has been on social media through photos and thanking everyone for coming as well as we teamed up with Extinction Rebellion so they shared some of the photos as well from the Strike and I've talked to some friends and family about it.

What will happen now?

We finished the rally and now we're doing a beach clean up on the 31st of October for recruitment for anyone who wants to join, as well as helping out the Semaphore Dunes group who help take the weeds out of the dunes. We want to make *School Strike for Climate* a more involved group in our community instead of just rallying and protesting. Then we're hoping to do a pretty big protest early next year so look out for that.

Advice for other students?

Some advice would be just give it a go, it's your future that's depending on this and even if you don't like it, at least you started.

What has been your favourite part?

It's been great to meet new people and like-minded people, and get the opportunity to speak to the Minister as well and then share my work with the YEC staff and other people.

