

## Unified Lives in Protests

Growing up, we are taught to stand up for our beliefs. We are taught the idea of using our voice at home. We are taught this same idea in the walls of classrooms. Yet as we get older, this idea of utilizing your voice becomes a bit more complicated. We are met with complex racism, sexism, and all types of hate crimes in society. Sometimes when there is such hatred, we need more than one voice to combat the hatred. We have seen this ideal in protests and movements throughout history, like the feminist movement and the Black Lives Matter movement. What makes these movements so crucial is their ability to bring various individual's ideas together, physically and mentally, to create the bigger picture in fighting for human rights. The Parkman Bandstand on Boston Commons has displayed this beauty of protests in various accounts. What used to be a gathering center for pastures became a common ground for individuals to enjoy the weather, as seen in the tour, and a hotspot for protests. During the Vietnamese war, people showed their support for the Vietnam war protests at the Parkman Bandstand. Fast forward to a few decades, individuals came together in a socially distanced state and expressed their support for Black Lives Matter through various powerful acts in the same spot. I was not aware of how mighty these acts could be until I experienced them firsthand. I captured the picture below during a Black Lives Matter protest. My classmates and I were taking graduation pictures, celebrating a significant milestone until we were met by young and old individuals walking down the streets of Williamsburg, giving their hearts out to the movement. The power these individuals held and the even more immense power the protest held with all these brilliant individuals bringing together their motives struck me. While the image of the Parkman Bandstand symbolized a meeting ground for protests and the image on the right showed the physical state of a protest, they both obtained the motive of protest and the congregation of ideas.



<https://images.app.goo.gl/n7yATZwuXasKN8dY8>

