

As an addition to this post, here is a note on how [the post](#) made me feel...

I have a very tough skin, but I can tell you this comment and the bullshit thread that ensued just wiped me out emotionally. I was one of only four activists leading about a hundred people in chants for over an hour and a half. I do not like leading chants. In fact, I dislike it, especially in situations with many activists I do not know. I dread all the ugly photos that will be posted of me on Facebook, wide mouthed, spit flailing. I know that, since I am the one being loud, I will be the object of any anger, be it passers-by, activists who don't like how the demo goes, store clerks, or the authorities. It took work to train my voice to do this and it is physically exhausting (and probably not healthy). Other activists who have never met me will make snap judgments about me because I lead these chants, and sometimes these will be negative. I do this not because it feels good, or because it makes me seem good to other activists, because it often has the opposite effect. I do it because I feel it is both effective and needed and I care about the cause. To have received such overwhelming admonishment for one statement I made in the course of all the hard work I was doing, and to have it be in a public way that I was never alerted to or invited to view, rather in a way that might be productive, was just deflating. It reminded me of why I dislike most things about the vegans in LA. It encouraged me to totally retreat and, given that I dedicate more time to activism than every single person who admonished me on the thread, that is a huge problem.

I can imagine good ways to have handled this. The activist could have included me in the comment or spoken to me privately and asked me why I said what I said, rather admonishing me. We could have debated the topic of cops rather than having me sit on the sidelines while others discuss if I did a bad thing. What I did was put myself out there the best I know how, and I would have been better served by direct confrontation; to me that would have suggested I was respected. I don't mind being challenged, I do mind petty unproductive Facebook deluges into one-sided opinions.