



What's Happening at Standing Rock?

Here are key terms, core questions, and resources about the current events at Standing Rock regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Key Definitions

- *Dakota Access Pipeline* – 1,172-mile pipeline that will connect crude oil production areas in North Dakota to Pankota, Illinois (from Energy Transfer)
- *Protest* – the act of objecting or a gesture of disapproval (from *Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary*)
- *Sovereignty* – one that is sovereign; an autonomous state (from *Merriam-Webster's Legal Dictionary*)
- *Standing Rock* – sovereign Native American reservation in North Dakota and South Dakota (from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe)
- *Water Protector* – person peacefully defending Native American land and the Native American way of life from the impact of the Dakota Access Pipeline (from Iyuskin American Horse)

Core Questions

1. How do the collective economic gains of the Dakota Access Pipeline weigh against its environmental impact, both actual and potential?
2. To what extent should protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline at Standing Rock be considered in the context of the history of interactions between Native Americans and the United States government?
3. How should the government respond to the presence of water protectors at Standing Rock?

Explore Further

- Aisch, G, & Lai, K.K.R. 23 November 2016. The Conflicts Along 1,172 of the Dakota Access Pipeline. *New York Times*. <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/11/23/us/dakota-access-pipeline-protest-map.html>
- NYC Stands with Standing Rock Collective. 2016. #StandingRockSyllabus. <https://nycstandswithstandingrock.wordpress.com/standingrocksyllabus/>

