# Communicating Beyond the Choir: Impacting Policy, Press and Public



## Only mass social movements can save us.



HOW

NONVIOLENT STRUGGLE

WORKS

Gene Sharp

The Albert Einstein Institution

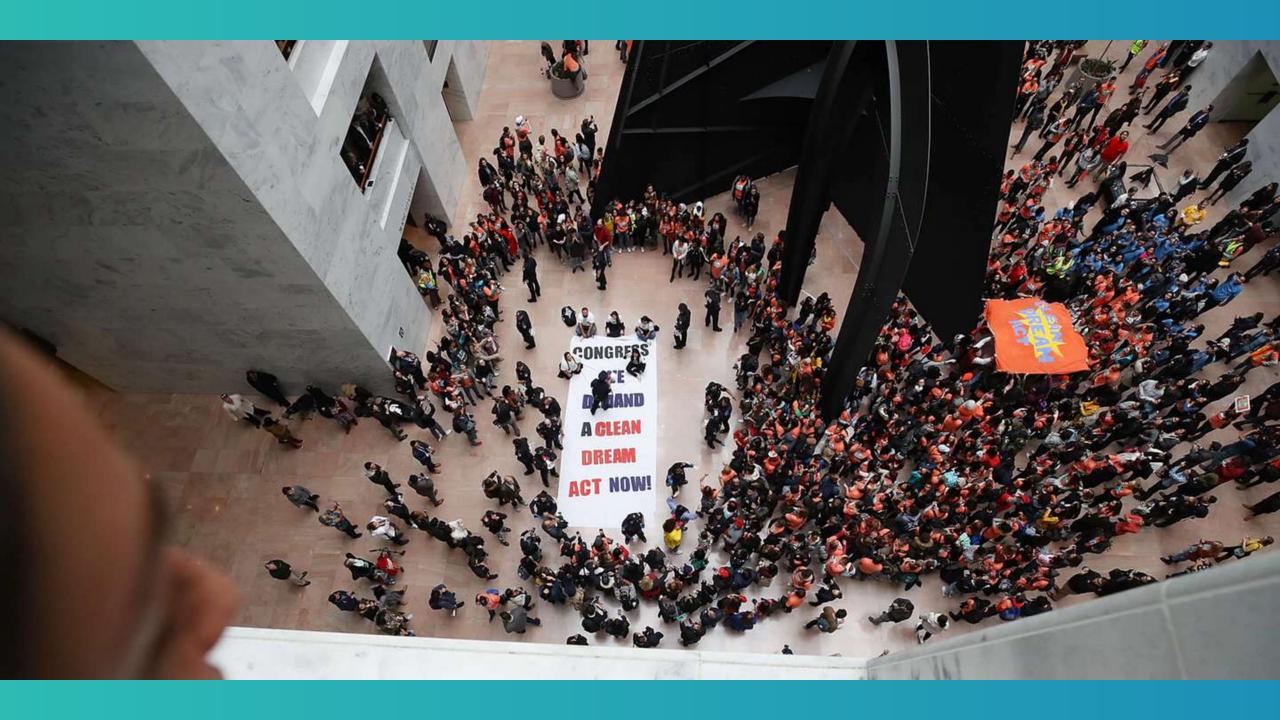
# The Politics of Nonviolent Action

Part Two

Methods Nonviolent Action

**GENE SHARP** 











#CNCA

## Contacting Electeds





## Boehner: Public health option as unpopular as a 'garlic milkshake'

BY MOLLY HOOPER - 10/01/09 04:24 PM EDT

18 COMMENTS

TWEET

TWEET

TWEET

Just In...





## Honda delivering garlic to Boehner after 'milkshake' joke

BY MICHAEL O'BRIEN - 10/02/09 02:34 PM EDT

5 COMMENTS

F SHARE

TWEET

Just In...

YOU ARE HERE: LAT Home → Collections

Los Angeles Times

Advertisement



#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

New Year's Eve noshing: 25 easy-to-make dishes

December 29, 2011

#### Congressman makes a stink about colleague's garlic remark

Michael M. Honda, who represents Gilroy, delivers a basket of garlic and a rebuttal ditty to John A. Boehner, who said a public option to private insurance would be as popular as a garlic milkshake.

October 03, 2009 | Richard Simon













WASHINGTON — To the congressman who represents Gilroy — the nation's self-proclaimed garlic capital — Rep. John A. Boehner's declaration earlier this week that a government-run health insurance program would be about as popular as a garlic milkshake, well, it stinks.

Democratic Rep. Michael M. Honda on Friday delivered a basket of the stinking rose to the Ohio Republican's Capitol office, while praising the health benefits of garlic and citing public support for a public alternative to private insurance.

"Two things make for a strong healthy heart. Gilroy garlic, for one, a good start," Honda wrote Boehner in a ditty. "Public option? Also high, In the America eye, 65 percent n'er want it to part."

Called for comment, Brian M. Bowe, executive director of the Gilroy Garlic Festival Assn., added, "I don't know that you can get a garlic milkshake here in Gilroy, but I'd be happy to invite John Boehner to next year's Gilroy Garlic Festival and serve him some garlic ice cream. It's delicious, and I have no doubt that a little extra garlic would do wonders for his health."



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Right: Jeh C. Johnson

#### Obama official: MLK would love our wars!

A top Pentagon official says the antiwar civil rights leader would support the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan



#### HUFFPOST



















POLITICS 01/19/2011 05:09 pm ET | Updated Dec 06, 2017

## Lawmakers Press Pentagon Official On MLK War Claim





#### CONGRESSIONAL **PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS**











HOME

ABOUT CPC

PRESS CENTER

**ISSUES** 

CONTACT

**ENDORSED BILLS** 

#### **CPC to Pentagon: Martin Luther King** Jr. Opposed War

01/21/11

This letter was sent by Rep. Michael Honda (D-Calif.) and signed by 11 other members of Congress to Jeh Johnson, general counsel for the Department of Defense.

Dear Mr. Johnson,



**Contact CPC** 





## UNITED



SSSS

SHANK/MICHAELJOHN

UA-\*\*\*072

NEW YORK TO DENVER

**UA1719** 

GATE

LGA-DEN C12

MON MAY 11 2015

GATE MAY CHANGE





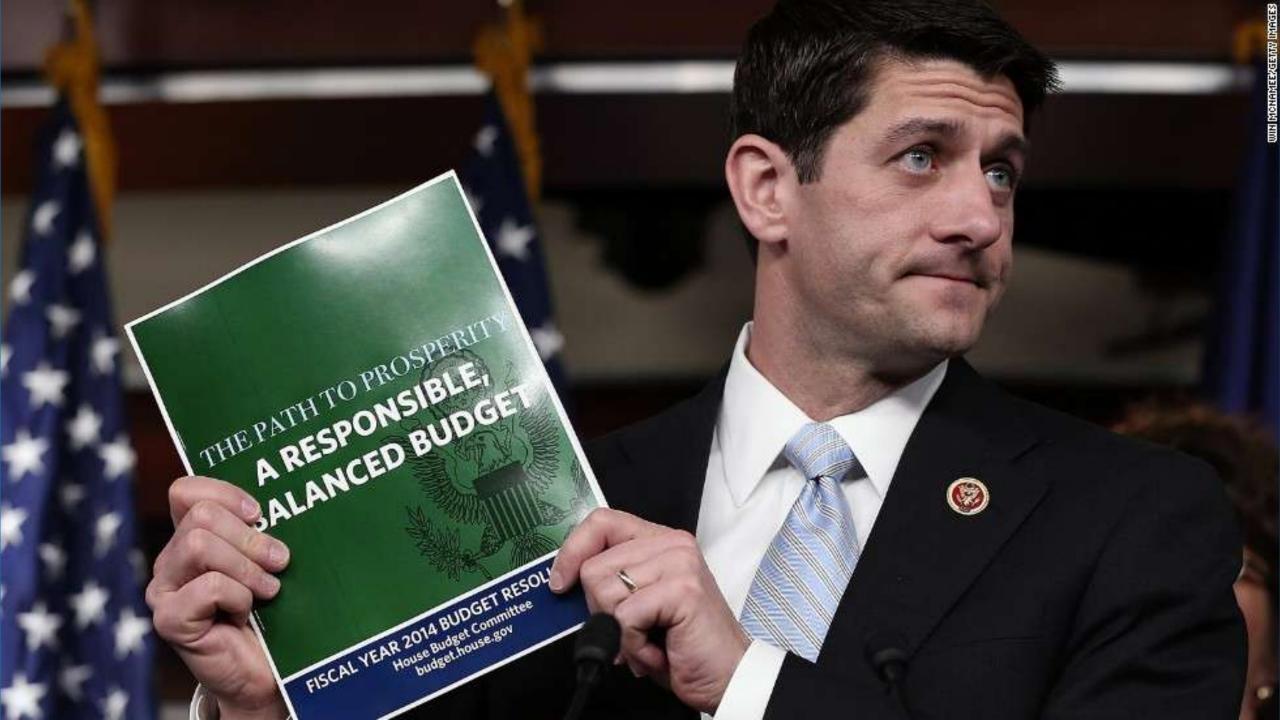
Michael Shank, Ph.D., Contributor

Adjunct Assistant Professor, NYU's Center for Global Affairs

## Confronting Homeland Security's 'SSSS' Watch List

If you were to look at my past and present passports, you'd see a host of nations stamped on it that the White House has historically considered an adversary, an "axis of evil" state, or a security threat.

05/21/2015 11:30 am ET | Updated Dec 06, 2017





## Abe Lincoln impersonator to teach kids about the budget

BY JUDY KURTZ - 06/18/13 01:54 PM EDT





SHARES





TWEET





Just In...

Sanders on 'alarming' climate change report: 'We've got to wake up and address these issues'

SUNDAY TALK SHOWS

- 7M 53S AGO

Fox's Pirro to Clinton on 2020: 'The only place that you need to run is back into the woods'

MEDIA - 8M 1S AGO

Steyer says he's undecided on running in 2020

SUNDAY TALK SHOWS

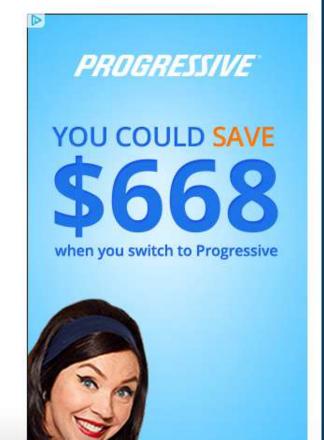
- 19M 51S AGO

It's not the first time Shank will be stepping into the role of the esteemed commander in chief. He used to play the president back in his home state of Ohio, and he also stepped into Lincoln's shoes for a House Appropriations subcommittee performance for kindergartners back in 2010.



He tells ITK since it's been a few years since he's done the Lincoln lesson for the elementary schoolers, he's always looking for new ways to engage and educate the youngsters: "I have to scratch my Lincolnian beard for more ideas."

Photo: Michael Shank as Lincoln.







#### A 'people's budget' that invests in jobs

By Raul M. Grijalva, Mike Honda and Lawrence Mishel, Special to CNN

April 14, 2011 7:13 a.m. EDT



Rep. Raul Grijalva, at the microphone, is joined by Rep. Mike Honda, on the left behind him, and Rep. Keith Ellison, to the right.

#### STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Congressional Progressive Caucus, Economic Institute created "People's Budget"
- Authors: Creating jobs, protecting middle class, investing in growth are priorities
- Writers say budget would end the wars and cut spending by \$1.7 trillion over a decade
- Ends taxpayer subsidies to oil and gas companies, closes tax loopholes, they say

Editor's note: U.S. Rep. Raul M. Grijalva, D-Arizona, is co-chairman of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. U.S. Rep. Mike Honda, D-California, is a member of the U.S. House Budget Committee.

Lawrence Mishel is president of the Economic Policy Institute.

(CNN) -- Despite a weak economic recovery and persistent, unacceptably high unemployment, Washington is prematurely pivoting from job creation to deficit reduction. Worse yet, many of the budget proposals flooding Washington are nothing but reverse Robin Hood plans to redistribute wealth from working families to the most privileged among us.



#### A budget plan that puts people first

By Mike Honda and Jeffrey D. Sachs, Special to CNN

May 23, 2011 11:03 a.m. EDT



Mike Honda

#### STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- The public is fed up with budget debates, say Mike Honda and Jeffrey D. Sachs
- Budget deal must be publicly debated and reflect America's true values, they say
- A proposal of the Congressional Progressive Caucus achieves this, say Honda and Sachs
- The People's Budget takes on corporations and excess spending, they say

#### RELATED TOPICS

Government Spending Federal Budget U.S. Politics Editor's note: Rep. Mike Honda is a senior member of the House Budget and Appropriations Committee and a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. Jeffrey D. Sachs is director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

(CNN) -- Last week's collapse of the Senate's "Gang of Six" debt-reduction talks, and talk of a "Gang of Five," will deepen the public's distaste for the process and substance

of the budget debates in Washington. Voters across the country resent being left out of these increasingly elite deliberations.

As much as the politicians argue, they don't seem to hear the good sense of the American people. The many closed-door meetings in Washington to decide on America's future are filled, instead, with esoteric and magical formulas purporting to close the deficit.

One group wants budget "caps." Another wants "trigger clauses." A third wants simplistic rules. None of these will work. These are gimmicks, not governing. Governing is about making choices, setting priorities and following through.

Governing is also about ensuring that the interests and values of American people are at the negotiating table. If not, any new deal will benefit only the rich and powerful, or will simply postpone any real decisions until after 2012. Either way, America would lose.

Our message is therefore clear: a budget deal needs to be publicly debated, and needs to reflect the true values and views of the American people.

One group in Congress gets this. The Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC) has heard the message of the American people, who want to cut the deficit without cutting into America's future and without destroying America's sense of fairness.

TIME







#### Bailing On the Paris Climate Deal Would Be a Huge Security Risk









By REP. RAÚL GRIJALVA AND MICHAEL SHANK June 1, 2017



U.S. Representative Grijalva (D-AZ) is a ranking member on the House Natural Resources Committee. Shank is an adjunct assistant professor at New York University's Center for Global Affairs.

#### **USA TODAY**

in

#### We're fiddling as the climate burns:

Michael Honda and Michael Shank Published 11:21 a.m. ET April 19, 2016 | Updated 11:47 a.m

The elites are aflutter about the climate crisis. Here's how to get more people alarmed and engaged.



(Photo: Giff Johnson, AFP)













The latest frightening climate study, predicting a devastating rise in sea levels in the lifetimes of

babies born today, isn't generating the sense of urgency that it should. Many more people need to be alarmed and engaged, and there are ways to make that happen.

The rates of sea level rise have increased rapidly over the last century and are projected to consume many American cities' infrastructure by mid-century. We won't be able to adapt through engineering. Nor can we rely on the power of the Paris climate talks in December, particular policies in America, or the proof behind climate science and data.

International diplomats, government officials, Supreme Court justices and New Yorkbased newspaper editorial boards are often the ones having these conversations. And it's often assumed that this will move the dial --- that the fight is mostly about securing voluntary carbon-cutting contributions from each country, the Obama administration winning a court battle over its Clean Power Plan, or persuading the few remaining media holdouts to report accurately on climate science.

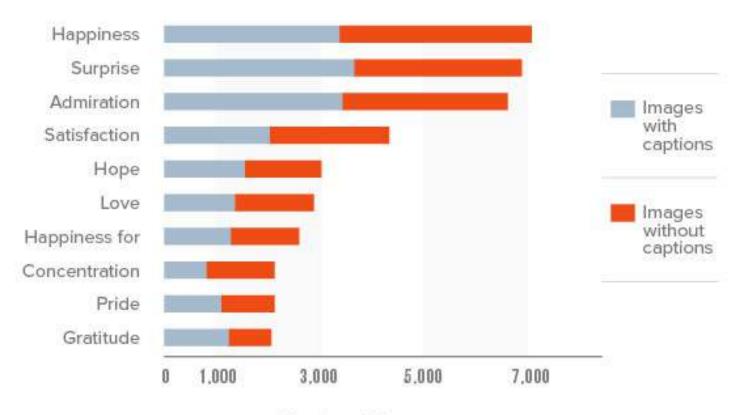
ADVERTISEMENT



#CNCA

## Writing for the Media

#### TOP EMOTIONAL RESPONSES TO VIRAL IMAGES



Number of Responses



### 8 Tips for Effective Tweets

- 1. Keep it Simple
- 2. Provide Direction
- 3. Tap into Key Moments
- 4. Use Hashtags Correctly
  - 5. Humanize Your Voice
  - 6. Listen to Understand
- 7. Use Creative Stopping Power
- 8. Evoke an Emotional Response







Following

We don't talk about it much: but we get this, every day. The last few days, I was told I'm c---, a liar, full of bs, and have a fake degree.

@coralsncaves @DrAndreaDutton

@SarahEMyhre and most other women have similar experiences. Yet still, we persevere.



HARASSMENT: 'Ugly fake scientist.' Women say sexist attacks on the rise

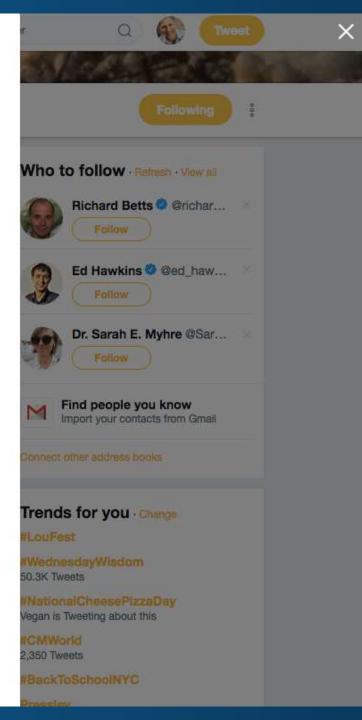
Female scientists say the harassment they're enduring from men is becoming more
personal, increasingly sexist and less focused on their scientific conclusions.

eenews.net

2:01 PM - 21 Aug 2018

485 Retweets 1,067 Likes









#### katharinehayhoe • Follow

katharinehayhoe Look what arrived in the mail! The latest addition to @natgeo's awesome kid series is "100 Ways to Make the World a Better Place" and my favourites are, clearly, #57 and #64:)

#science #kids #bethechange

kimcobb2 \* w w w w purchased.

azureOterra Fun!

kimcobb2 @kimcobb2 ok purchased x 5. Great donation to my kids classrooms! Endorsed by my heroine!

katharinehayhoe @kimcobb2 it is so refreshing to see accurate, hopeful materials we can share with their kids, isn't it?! Everyone needs one of these!

mrspoke can I triple like this??:)

credfernjr This is why Time Magazine went









230 likes

AUGUST 13

Log in to like or comment.



## Writing for the Media

- ✓ Follow the news on a daily basis
- ✓ Choose one argument, and then prove it
- ✓ Introduce your main argument immediately
- ✓ The "so what?" factor
- **✓** Offer specific recommendations
- ✓ The article should be 700-750 words











### Writing for the Media

- ✓ Tell stories if possible
- ✓ Use short sentences and paragraphs
- ✓ Write in first or third person
- ✓ Remove climate/carbon jargon
- ✓ Be active not passive
- ✓ End strong



### SENTENCE FLUENCY: **Vary Sentence Lengths**

#### **Short sentences**

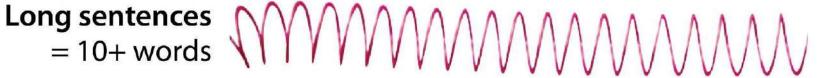
= 1-3 words

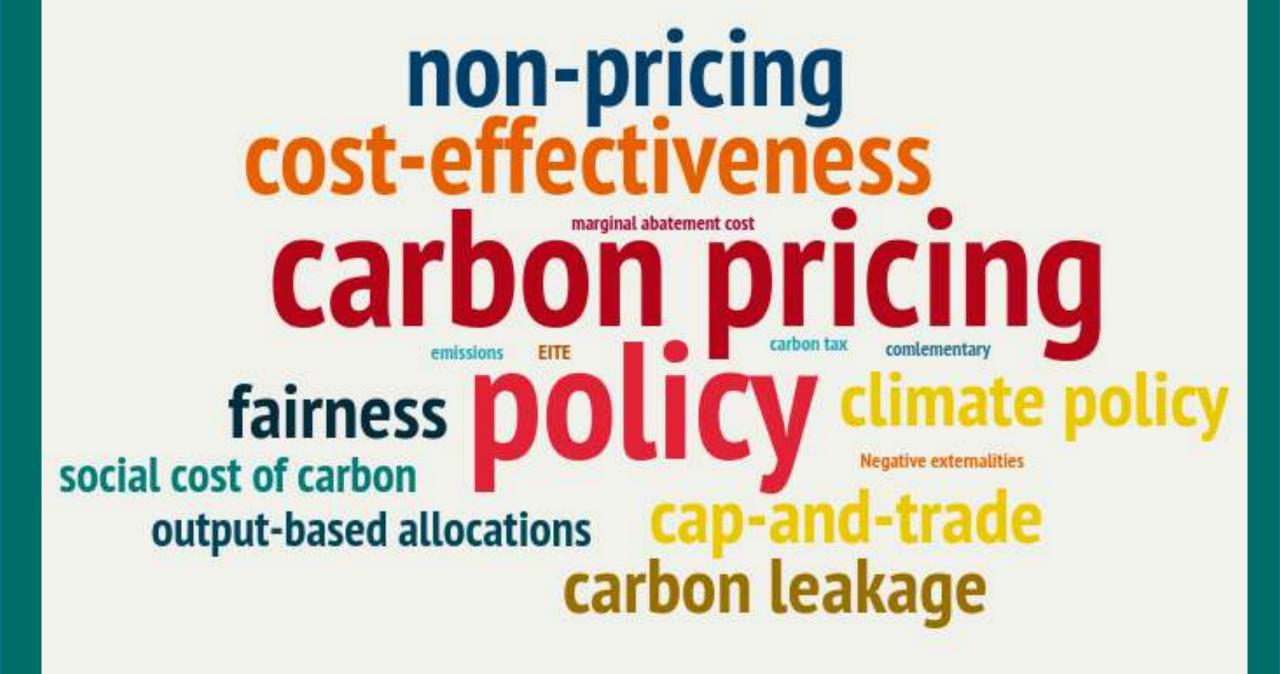


#### Medium sentences M

= 4-9 words







### Writing for the Media

- ✓ Relax and have fun
- **✓** Final reminder:
- 1. the op-ed should have a single, clear argument presented at top,
- 2. the op-ed should have a clear structure to it, and
- 3. the language should be easy to understand and easily accessible.



Table 1: Structure of an Op-Ed

Op-Ed Structure Example Outline	
Example Outline	
Below is a sample op-ed structure	
Sample main argument	
-We need to 'get off gas'	
-There's nothing 'natural' about it	
-Time to move 'beyond gas'	
Time to move <u>beyond gas</u>	
First supporting statement	
It's <u>bad for the <i>environment</i></u> (e.g. carbon footprint)	
Second supporting statement	
It's bad for our health (e.g. health effects from fracking, pipelines, compressor stations)	
Third supporting statement	
It's bad for our security (e.g. explosive infrastructure posing security risk)	
Specific recommendations/solutions	
-"Bridge" fuel no longer needed	
-Technologically, we've arrived at destination (100% renewable scale-up feasible)	
Strong ending	
-Reiterate main argument (Ditch gas: it's bad for people and planet; Switch now)	





#CNCA

# Interviewing for the Media

First, prepare 2-3 talking points that clearly explain your city's climate analysis and prescription.





Second, deliver the 2-3 talking points in such a way that enables you to be asked back again to the television or radio station.







Third, remember that the majority of all communicated meaning is nonverbal (between 65-93%, according to communication theorists).





## Interviewing for the Media

- ✓ Develop 2-3 messages and talking points
- ✓ Watch the television show several times.
- ✓ Know the exact format of the show
- ✓ Ask the producer or assistant as many questions as possible
- ✓ Rehearse the interview in advance
- ✓ Choose in-studio interviews over satellite interviews











### Interviewing for the Media

- ✓ Remember the power of nonverbal communication
- ✓ Keep focused throughout the interview
- ✓ Talk to the host by name
- ✓ Deliver your key messages immediately
- ✓ Speak slowly and with tonal variety
- ✓ Stay collected throughout the entire interview



# Rehearse, Rehearse, Rehearse.

- Anonymous





#CNCA

# Pitching the Media

### The Prep

- > Be creative.
- > Know a reporter's expertise.
- > Make the reporter look good.
- > Have a compelling subject line.
- > Keep the pitch short, simple and tight.
- > Send the media a story for which they are hungry.

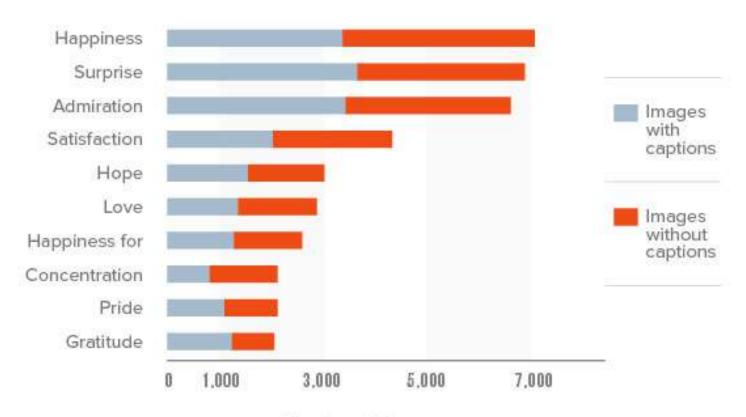


### The Pitch

Who/What/Where/When/Why

- Go micro then macro
- > Be helpful and friendly
- > Be familiar to the reporter
- Be clear about the news hook
- > Offer media access when possible
  - > Know your media audience
  - > Practice, practice, practice

#### TOP EMOTIONAL RESPONSES TO VIRAL IMAGES



Number of Responses



## Commitments?



#CNCA

# Thank you!

MichaelShank@CarbonNeutralCities.org