HOW TO DO IT:

BLACK BLOC TACTICS

allow demonstrators to take action without fear of immediate identification. If you choose to wear a mask, do it right:

✱ COVER UP

It's not enough to cover half your face. Even if you get away, the police may use photos or video to charge you later. Cover your hair, face, arms, and hands. Cloth gloves are best. Take out piercings. Make sure there are no identifying features on your clothes, shoes, or backpack. If you bring any materials with you, wipe them down with rubbing alcohol first to get the prints off. Don't bring anything you don't need.

✱ STAY TIGHT

If possible, come to the demonstration with a small group of people you trust. Choose your crew based on shared intentions, not just friendship. You are there to have each other's back in the street and follow up if one of you gets arrested or hurt. Strangers need to protect each other too. Stay physically close, not spread out, so that if police try to enter the crowd, you can "accidentally" get in their way. The front of the march might need to slow down while the back catches up. Stay moving, though: a tight, mobile crowd is difficult to surround or disperse.

✱ PLAN YOUR EXIT

Always wear "civilian clothes" under your hoodie so that you can de-bloc and blend in with a crowd or smoothly walk away. Keep an eye out for danger zones and escape routes. If things heat up, stay calm and act decisively. Commit to your exit when you decide you're done. Sometimes you have to sprint and hide; sometimes, you just step onto the sidewalk and remove your mask. You can de-bloc in the middle of a friendly crowd if you're sure you are well screened.

✱ KEEP IT QUIET

Bragging and storytelling are natural, but they're easy to use against us. If you have to talk, choose someone trustworthy who was with you in the streets. Don't post anything on Facebook that you wouldn't show a cop. The same goes for Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr. Remember that police will read your texts and call-log if they arrest you.

✱ NEVER, EVER SNITCH

If you are arrested, invoke your right to remain absolutely silent. Name, address, and no more.