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Review of Organizing for Social Change

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In this fourth edition, the Midwest Academy provides readers with the tools for developing strategic frameworks for fostering community, grassroots activism and democratic citizenship. The Midwest Academy began in 1973 with the women’s movement and continues to aid progressive organizations and movements. In sharing its vision for society, the authors draw on the experience and expertise of dozens of organizers. The book offers thorough content, organized into three parts: "Direct Action Organizing," "Organizing Skills," and "Support for Organization." Some chapters are the same as in the previous edition, whereas others have been rewritten to reflect changes in technology and contexts. Several contain checklists at the end, covering topics such as planning a meeting. Of particular interest is Chapter 15, "Online Organizing," which informs organizers about the power and effectiveness of tools such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Chapter 17, "Tactical Investigations," provocatively differentiates between research and intelligence. The latter is about identifying an opponent's strengths and weaknesses as a first step toward action. Organizers will learn to navigate public records as a means of gathering intelligence on corporations and their officers. With material on conflicts of interests, lying, unethical practices, and lawbreaking, this book should help individuals help their leaders to do the right thing.

**Summing Up:** Recommended. Lower-level undergraduates and above; general readers.

**Reviewer:** R. Tolley-Stokes, East Tennessee State University

**Recommendation:** Recommended

**Readership Level:** General Readers, Lower-division Undergraduates, Upper-division Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Researchers/Faculty, Professionals/Practitioners

**Interdisciplinary Subjects:**

**Subject:** Reference - Social & Behavioral Sciences

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