Talking Points
Occupy Wall Street Protests

- No one should be surprised by this.
- Wall Street wrecked the economy through greed, stupidity and fraud.
- The middle class is paying for the mess that Wall Street made.
- Students are facing debt and unemployment.
- Unemployment is high and wages are falling.
- Pensions are disappearing.
- Social programs are being cut.
- The big corporations and the billionaires need to be paying their fair share.
- It’s obvious what the movement is about.
- It’s about taking America back from the CEOs and billionaires on Wall Street who destroyed our economy.
- It’s about creating good jobs.

- It’s about corporate America treating its workers and customers with honesty and fairness and paying its fair share to stimulate the economy.

- Teamsters all over the country are participating in Occupy Wall Street events. Teamsters support and encourage them.

- We stand in solidarity with Americans who want better lives for themselves and for future generations.

- Teamsters took on Wall Street and won when Goldman Sachs tried to destroy YRCW and good middle class jobs.

- We can win again.

- Americans are fed up. They want their country back. We saw it in Wisconsin and Ohio. We’re seeing it with the Wall Street protests.

Background

- Occupy Wall Street grew from a few hundred people camping out in Lower Manhattan on Sept. 17 to almost 500 groups worldwide.

- The movement is getting organized with social media: twitter, Facebook, blogs and websites.

- Teamsters Local 814 was the first union to join the protest in New York during the first week.

- Occupy Wall Street protesters disrupted an auction at Sotheby's in solidarity with locked-out Teamster art handlers.

- Occupy Wall Street protesters also leafleted Verizon and marched with postal workers.

- Occupy Wall Street has support from unions, community groups, military veterans, celebrities and political and social leaders.

- Their message is: "We are the 99%. We are getting kicked out of our homes. We are forced to choose between groceries and rent. We are denied quality medical care. We are suffering from environmental pollution. We are working long hours for little pay and no rights, if we're working at all. We are getting nothing while the other 1 percent is getting everything."