

Civil Rights End of Unit Project

Overview: The African American Civil Rights Movement was a large and expansive time in our country's history. While you have spent the last month learning about some of the major people, events and legislation from this time period, you have not had the opportunity to investigate specific events deeply.

For the next two weeks, you are going to conduct a short research project centered around a specific event from the movement. You will be in groups of four (or 3 if necessary) and will work together on certain aspects of the project as well as individually on your specific portion.

Timeline: You will have 1 week to research and 1 week to create the presentation. **Grading:** Your project (as a group) will be displayed using "Presentations" through Google (just like PowerPoint). You will also be presenting your information as a group to your class--this is where the **MAJORITY** of your grade will come from. Additionally, most of your grade will be a group grade, so choose your groupmates wisely. Each of you will receive an individual grade based on the quality of your section of the project.

Content: You will need to write in complete sentences, proper English, etc. but you **WILL NOT** have to write a full essay.

★ **PART 1**--As a group, you need to create an overview of your event. This should include (*but not necessarily in this order*):

- **Who** was involved--important people
- **When** and where it took place
- **What** happened at the event
- **Leaders** of the event
 - The Civil Rights Movement was a movement composed of many individuals and **not** the initiative of any single person or small group of people.
 - **For example:** *The March on Washington was led by the "Big Six": Martin Luther King, Jr., James Farmer, John Lewis, A. Phillip Randolph, Roy Wilkins and Whitney Young. Openly gay civil rights activist Bayard Rustin directed and coordinated the March.*
- **Groups** that helped organize the event
 - **For example:** *The sponsoring committee for the March on Washington included representation from civil rights organizations as well as religious and labor groups. These groups worked together and marched in solidarity.*
 - Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)
 - Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)
 - Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
 - Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters
 - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
 - National Urban League
 - National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice
 - Commission on Race Relations of the National Council of Churches
 - American Jewish Committee

- United Automobile Workers (UAW) & The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
 - **Why** the event was important to the Civil Rights Movement.
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★ **Part 2**--Individually, you will each research and focus on one of the following four sections. This is your contribution to the group project, so make sure you do your best on it. If you have a group of 3, one of the sections will not be completed.

1. Obstacles. Identify something that was an obstacle to the success of your event in the course of the Civil Rights Movement.

- a. Describe the complications this obstacle created for those involved in your event.
- b. What were the reasons why they created the obstacle(s)?

For example: *Resistance to the March on Washington came from different sources. **White supremacists** opposed the goals of the March. **The Kennedy administration** originally discouraged it, concerned about political backlash. Even some black leaders criticized the March for being overly staged and scripted; **Malcolm X** called it the “Farce on Washington.”*

2. Tactics. Identify a tactic (method) used during the struggle for Civil Rights and specifically your event.

- a. Explain the outcome of this tactic and whether it had a positive or negative impact on the success of the CRM.

For example: *The March on Washington was an integrated, **nonviolent demonstration**. Unlike other forms of protest used during the civil rights movement, the March **did not use civil disobedience or direct action**; organizers decided that **solidarity**, rather than confrontation, would be the goal.*

3. Connection to other movements. Choose a different social movement from before or after your event that is connected to the Civil Rights Movement.

- a. Using evidence from the text, explain how this movement is connected to your event and Civil Rights Movement as a whole.

For example: *The nation’s capital had seen other large public protests for political causes like **labor** (Coxey’s Army, 1894) and **women’s suffrage** (1913 Women’s Suffrage Parade). But after the success of the 1963 March on Washington, demonstrating for change in the nation’s capital has become an important part of the social movements that followed, including the **environmental, anti-war, women’s rights** and **LGBT** rights movements.*

4. Connection to current events. Link your Civil Rights event to an event or concern that is CURRENTLY in the news.

- a. Discuss the similarities and why you think this is still a relevant event in the news over 50 years later.

For example: *The 50th anniversary of the March on Washington is a time to assess our nation’s progress toward the goals of the civil rights movement. While major legislative victories have been won, many of **the demands for economic justice** made by the marchers **have not been met**.*

EVENT OPTIONS

1. Montgomery Bus Boycott
2. Freedom Rides
3. Desegregation of Armed Forces
4. Children's March
5. Bloody Sunday
6. Emmett Till's Murder
7. Greensboro Lunch Counter Sit In's
8. Little Rock 9/Brown vs Board of Education
9. Freedom Summer—Mississippi Burning
10. Medgar Evers' murder
11. March On Washington
12. 16th Street Church Bombing
13. **OTHER IDEAS NOT ON LIST?** Bring your idea to your ELA teacher.