Paths to Change

How civil rights groups turned shared goals into action

9-12.US2.29 "Analyze the motives, strategies, methods, organizations, and impacts of various Civil Rights Movements."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each movement's goal, circle its organization, number its actions, and box an outcome. Use your marks to trace how each group pursued change.

Three Campaigns for Civil Rights

1. In 1955, Black residents of Montgomery, Alabama, challenged a city bus system that forced them to give up seats to white riders. After Rosa Parks was arrested, the Montgomery Improvement Association organized a bus boycott. Residents walked and shared rides in carpools instead of paying fares. Their aim was equal treatment on public buses, not simply a different way to travel. The boycott lasted more than a year. A federal court ruling, upheld by the Supreme Court, ended bus segregation in Montgomery.

2. In California, farmworkers faced low wages and dangerous working conditions. Filipino workers began a grape strike in Delano in 1965, and a Mexican American farmworker group joined them. These groups later formed the United Farm Workers. The union used strikes and a nationwide grape boycott to pressure growers without relying only on local workers. In 1970, major grape growers signed contracts with the union, improving pay and conditions for many workers. The campaign showed how shoppers far from the fields could influence labor negotiations.

3. In 1977, disability rights activists occupied a federal building in San Francisco. They wanted the government to enforce Section 504, a provision of a federal law that barred disability discrimination in programs receiving federal funds. The American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities helped organize protests across the country. Protesters stayed inside the San Francisco building for weeks, drawing public attention and demanding action. Federal officials signed regulations explaining how to enforce the law. The victory made access to federally funded schools and services a clearer legal obligation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Montgomery Improvement Association turn residents' daily travel into pressure for change?

2. Why did the farmworkers' nationwide grape boycott extend the strike's reach?

3. How did the San Francisco sit-in advance the activists' goal?

4. Compare the roles of the Montgomery Improvement Association and the United Farm Workers. What did each help people do?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one movement in the passage. Propose a new, nonviolent action its organization could have used at the time, and explain how that action could advance its goal using two details from the passage.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each movement's goal, circle its organization, number its actions, and box an outcome. Use your marks to trace how each group pursued change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Montgomery Improvement Association turn residents' daily travel into pressure for change?	**It organized a bus boycott. Residents walked or shared rides instead of paying bus fares.**
2	Why did the farmworkers' nationwide grape boycott extend the strike's reach?	**It let shoppers far from Delano pressure grape growers, not just workers at the farms.**
3	How did the San Francisco sit-in advance the activists' goal?	**Staying in the federal building drew attention to their demand for Section 504 enforcement regulations, which officials then signed.**
4	Compare the roles of the Montgomery Improvement Association and the United Farm Workers. What did each help people do?	**The Montgomery Improvement Association organized residents to stop riding buses. The United Farm Workers organized workers and shoppers to pressure grape growers through strikes and a boycott.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The United Farm Workers could have held public meetings where farmworkers described low wages and dangerous conditions to shoppers. Because the union already reached people beyond California through a nationwide grape boycott, it could have invited supporters in many cities. The meetings might have led more shoppers to contact grape growers and demand better contracts.

Accept other nonviolent actions that are distinct from those described in the passage. The explanation should connect the proposed action to the movement's goal and cite two accurate passage details.