

Rights, Pressure, Power

Trace how activists and government institutions reshaped civil rights.

11.10a "After World War II, long-term demands for equality by African Americans led to the civil rights movement. The efforts of individuals, groups, and institutions helped to redefine African American civil rights..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions by activists. Circle government responses. Link one activist strategy to a change in enforceable rights.

Many Paths to Change

- ① African Americans intensified a long struggle against segregation after World War II. NAACP lawyers won *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), which declared racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional. Resistance continued. In 1957, President Eisenhower sent troops to protect nine Black students integrating Little Rock's Central High School. Court rulings needed enforcement when officials resisted constitutional rights.
- ② Grassroots pressure also mattered. Montgomery residents boycotted segregated buses. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) organized nonviolent campaigns. The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) supported sit-ins and voter organizing. Their methods overlapped. Fannie Lou Hamer sought seats for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party at the 1964 Democratic convention. Her testimony exposed intimidation and violence against Black people seeking voting rights.
- ③ The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination in many public accommodations and employment practices. In *Heart of Atlanta Motel v. United States*, the Supreme Court upheld Congress's authority under the commerce power to apply the law to a motel serving interstate travelers. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 strengthened federal action against racial barriers to voting. Organizing, lawsuits, legislation, and enforcement worked together to expand protections. Legal victories did not automatically eliminate inequalities in schools, housing, wealth, or political participation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did the Brown decision declare, and what did the Little Rock crisis show about putting that decision into effect?

2 Name one activity of SCLC and one of SNCC. Why should these examples not be treated as exclusive methods?

3 What did Fannie Lou Hamer seek at the 1964 Democratic National Convention, and what did her testimony reveal?

4 How did the Civil Rights Act, Heart of Atlanta ruling, and Voting Rights Act strengthen federal protections?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

In four sentences, explain how different actors helped expand civil rights. Use three passage details and identify one inequality that legal victories did not automatically eliminate.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline actions by activists. Circle government responses. Link one activist strategy to a change in enforceable rights. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did the Brown decision declare, and what did the Little Rock crisis show about putting that decision into effect?	Brown declared racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional. Little Rock showed that court decisions could require federal enforcement when state authorities resisted them.
2	Name one activity of SCLC and one of SNCC. Why should these examples not be treated as exclusive methods?	SCLC organized nonviolent campaigns; SNCC supported sit-ins and voter organizing. Their methods overlapped and were not exclusive to either group.
3	What did Fannie Lou Hamer seek at the 1964 Democratic National Convention, and what did her testimony reveal?	She sought seating for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. Her testimony exposed barriers to Black political participation.
4	How did the Civil Rights Act, Heart of Atlanta ruling, and Voting Rights Act strengthen federal protections?	The Civil Rights Act barred discrimination in many public accommodations and employment practices. Heart of Atlanta Motel upheld Congress's power to apply that law to a motel serving interstate travelers. The Voting Rights Act targeted barriers that had blocked many African Americans from voting.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

NAACP lawyers won Brown, but resistance at Little Rock required federal enforcement. SCLC and SNCC mobilized grassroots pressure through overlapping methods. Congress passed civil-rights and voting protections, while courts upheld federal authority. These gains did not automatically eliminate inequalities in housing or schools.

Accept accurate passage-supported explanations. The final response should connect different actors to change, use three details, and name a continuing inequality. Do not treat SCLC and SNCC methods as mutually exclusive.