

Steps Toward Fairness

Read how people worked together to challenge unfair school rules.

3.8c "When faced with prejudice and discrimination, people can take steps to support social action and change."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that tell about unfair treatment. Circle each action people took to make schools fairer.

Changing Unfair School Rules

- ① In the 1950s, many public schools in the United States were segregated. This unfair rule kept Black children and white children in separate schools because of race. Black families and groups such as the NAACP spoke out against segregation. They believed every child should have an equal chance to learn in a good public school near home.
- ② In 1954, the Supreme Court decided *Brown v. Board of Education*. The Court said separate public schools for Black and white students were not equal under the Constitution. This decision called for schools to end segregation. Families, lawyers, and community members kept working because many schools did not change right away after the ruling was announced.
- ③ In 1957, nine Black students enrolled at Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. They faced angry crowds and threats. Many people supported the students. The NAACP helped with legal work, and federal troops protected the students as they entered school. Their brave actions helped enforce the Court's decision and showed why people can work together for fair treatment.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What unfair treatment did segregation cause in public schools?

2 What did Black families and groups such as the NAACP do to challenge segregation?

3 Why did families, lawyers, and community members keep working after the Court's decision?

4 Name two ways people supported the nine students at Central High School. How did this support help change happen?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine a student is left out of a school activity because of who they are. Write four sentences telling two steps you and others could take to support fair treatment and explain how the steps could help.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words that tell about unfair treatment. Circle each action people took to make schools fairer. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What unfair treatment did segregation cause in public schools?	It kept Black children and white children in separate schools because of race.
2	What did Black families and groups such as the NAACP do to challenge segregation?	They spoke out against segregation.
3	Why did families, lawyers, and community members keep working after the Court's decision?	Many schools did not change right away.
4	Name two ways people supported the nine students at Central High School. How did this support help change happen?	The NAACP helped with legal work, and federal troops protected the students. This support helped enforce the Court's decision.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A new student is left out of the robotics club because she speaks Spanish. I would invite her to join and ask the club leader to use a fair sign-up rule. I would tell a trusted adult what happened. These steps can help every student have a fair chance to join.

Accept answers that identify unfair treatment and describe actions people took, such as speaking out, doing legal work, or protecting students. For the open response, accept realistic steps that seek adult help, include others, speak up, or create fair rules, with an explanation of how the steps support change.