

Lesson Plan

Learning About Leaders

Book: *The Civil Rights Movement*

Series: Postwar America

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students write a short essay about one of the leaders of the civil rights movement.

Supplies

- *The Civil Rights Movement* book
- “Civil Rights Leaders” web page on the NAACP website:
<https://naacp.org/find-resources/history-explained/civil-rights-leaders>
- Whiteboard
- Whiteboard markers
- Computer access for students

Before the Activity

Read through *The Civil Rights Movement*, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

During the civil rights movement, thousands of Americans took action to call for equal rights. They wrote books and articles, gave speeches, and organized marches and protests. Several key leaders helped make these events possible. The NAACP website lists some of them. Have each student choose one of the people listed on this website to learn more about. Students will write a short essay about this person. This essay should answer five questions:

- Where and when was this leader born?
- What events and ideas are they most known for?
- What type of change or action did they focus on?
- What methods did they use to bring about change?
- What was their legacy in the civil rights movement?

Write these questions on the whiteboard for students to refer to. Give students time to research and write. Then collect the essays at the end of class.

Evaluation

Use the following system to give each student up to 15 points:

- 5 points for answering the questions on the whiteboard

- 5 points for writing that is clear and easy to follow
- 5 points for using correct spelling and grammar

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grade 5 (RI 5.7), and writing standards, grade 5 (W 5.2).