

U.S. History Week 4 of Distance Learning.

Table 1: “Analyzing Responses for Civil Rights”

Use the attached readings to fill in the table

Analysis Questions:

Once you have completed the table thoroughly, respond to these questions.

How to turn in:

You may submit the chart by taking a picture and emailing it to your teacher, or by dropping it off at the school on May 15th.

Extra info:

If you cannot print out the assignment, you may copy the table/questions by hand on lined paper with pen or pencil so that you can email a picture to your teacher, but please write neatly.

Please circle the name of your teacher AND the class period you are in:

Mr. Castor U.S. History Period 1 Assignment 4	Mr. Heffelfinger U.S. History Period 4 6 Assignment 4	Ms. Jones U.S. History Period 3 5 6 Assignment 4	Ms. Lopez U.S. History Period 1 2 Assignment 4	Ms. McMahon U.S. History Period 3 5 Assignment 4	Mr. Sundquist U.S. History Period 1 2 4 Assignment 4
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Directions:

The **Civil Rights Era** was one of the most tumultuous times in American History. Since the *Plessy v. Ferguson* Supreme Court decision of 1896, segregation had been the law of the land in much of the American South. This was overturned in 1954 by the *Brown v. Board of Education* case. However, calls for desegregation and equality increased were met with violence and murder.

You are going to analyze several key events from the Civil Rights era. For each one, you have to place yourself in the time period and **make a choice** on how you would respond.

Would you:

1. Resist -- If you choose to *resist*, you are joining those protesting against segregation and racial inequality.
2. Collaborate -- *Collaborating* means actively supporting the status quo in America of segregation.
3. Act as if nothing happened -- Finally, you could choose to ignore the events going on and *act as if nothing had happened*.

After reading about each event, take a couple minutes to think about how you would respond and the repercussions that decision might have. Then, CIRCLE your response and briefly describe your reasoning.

After completing each one, move on to the questions on the next page.



Analyzing Responses for Civil Rights

Event	Date	Response	Reasoning
<u>Emmett Till</u> <u>Murder</u>		Resist Collaborate Ignore	
<u>Southern</u> <u>Manifesto</u>		Resist Collaborate Ignore	
<u>Freedom Riders</u> <u>Bus Bombed</u>		Resist Collaborate Ignore	
<u>Birmingham</u> <u>Campaign</u>		Resist Collaborate Ignore	
<u>Bombing of</u> <u>Birmingham</u> <u>church</u>		Resist Collaborate Ignore	
<u>Harlem</u> <u>Race Riots</u>		Resist Collaborate Ignore	
<u>Selma March</u>		Resist Collaborate Ignore	
<u>MLK</u> <u>Assassinated</u>		Resist Collaborate Ignore	

Analysis Questions

1. Which event had the biggest impact on you and why?
2. How did your responses to the events change over time?
3. **Draw a symbol or picture:** Given the events that took place **during this era and in today's world**, what does it look like when people:

Resist	Collaborate	Act as if nothing is happening

4. What impact can that choice have on you as an individual and on those around you?

Emmett Till Murdered



While visiting family in Mississippi in August 1955, 14-year-old **Emmett Till**, an African American boy from Chicago, was brutally murdered for whistling at a white woman at a grocery store.

The woman's husband and brother kidnapped Emmett in the middle of the night and nearly beat him to death, before shooting him in the head and throwing his body, tied with barbed wire to a cotton-gin fan, into a river. The men were tried for murder, but an all-white, male jury acquitted them.

Decision: *Would you join the resistance and protest against injustice and racial inequality, collaborate with and support the status quo in America, or act as if nothing had happened?*

The Southern Manifesto Signed

In March 1956, Representative Howard Smith of Virginia, introduced the Southern Manifesto in Congress. It was signed by 82 Representatives and 19 Senators—roughly one-fifth of the membership of Congress and all from states that had once composed the Confederacy. The Manifesto was a public show of defiance against the Supreme Court's 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.

The Manifesto attacked the Supreme decision as an abuse of judicial power that trespassed upon states' rights. It urged southerners to exhaust all "lawful means" to resist the "chaos and confusion" that would result from school desegregation. Smith had cooperated with several Senators to develop the **Manifesto**, and Walter F. George of Georgia introduced it in the Senate. Under Smith, the House of Representatives' Rules Committee became a graveyard for numerous civil rights initiatives in the 1950s.

Decision: *Would you join the resistance and protest segregation and racial inequality, collaborate with and support the status quo in America, or act as if nothing had happened?*



Freedom Riders Bus Bombed

The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) organized “Freedom Rides” of African-American and white students to protest segregated buses and terminals. The original group of 13 Freedom Riders—7 African-Americans and six whites—left Washington, D.C. in May 1961. Their plan was to reach New Orleans to commemorate the 7th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.

In Anniston, Alabama an angry mob of about 200 white people surrounded their bus, and someone threw a bomb into a window. The **Freedom Riders** escaped the bus as it burst into flames, only to be brutally beaten by members of the surrounding mob.

Decision: *Would you join the resistance and protest segregation and racial inequality, collaborate with and support the status quo in America, or act as if nothing had happened?*



Birmingham Campaign

In 1963, Birmingham, Alabama was one of the most racially divided cities in the United States, both as enforced by law and culturally. Black citizens faced legal and economic disparities, and violent retribution when they attempted to draw attention to their problems.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) organized the **Birmingham Campaign** in April 1963 to bring attention to the integration efforts of African-Americans in Birmingham. Led by Martin Luther King Jr., James Bevel, Fred Shuttlesworth and others, the campaign of nonviolent protest culminated in widely publicized confrontations between young black students and authorities.

A peaceful march by high school, college, and elementary school students was organized from the 16th Street Baptist Church to City Hall to talk to the mayor about segregation. This resulted in over 1,000 arrests, and, as the jails became full of arrested students, the Police Department used high-pressure water hoses and police attack dogs on the children and adult bystanders.

Decision: *Would you join the resistance and protest segregation and racial inequality, collaborate with and support the status quo in America, or act as if nothing had happened?*



Birmingham Church Bombing



On Sunday, September 15, 1963, four members of the Ku Klux Klan planted at least 15 sticks of dynamite attached to a timing device beneath the steps located on the east side of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama.

The explosion blew a 7-foot wide hole in the African-American church's rear wall, and a 5-foot wide crater in the basement, destroying the rear steps to the church. Four girls were killed in the attack and 22 others injured.

Martin Luther King Jr. **described the bombing** as, "one of the most vicious and tragic crimes ever perpetrated against humanity."

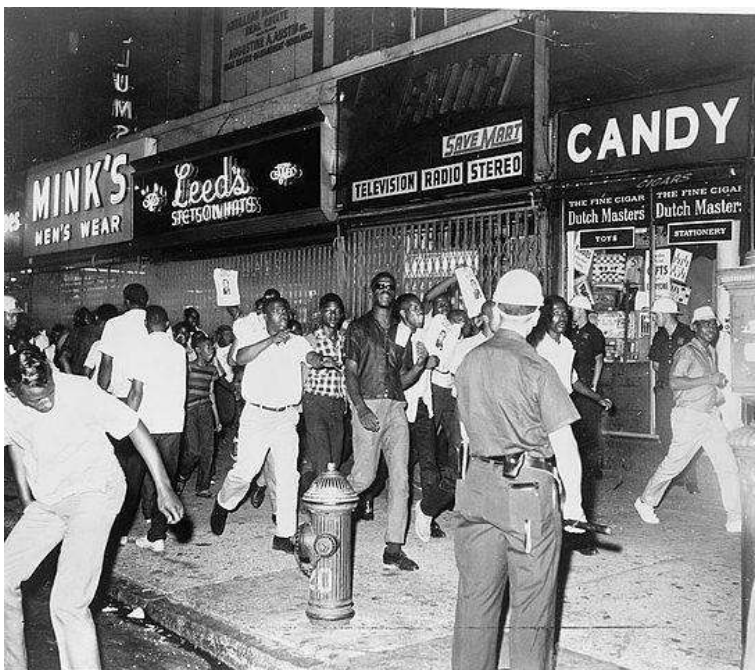
Although the FBI had concluded in 1965 that the bombing had been committed by four known Ku Klux Klansmen, no prosecutions ensued until 1977.

Decision: *Would you join the resistance and protest injustice, segregation, and racial inequality, collaborate with and support the status quo in America, or act as if nothing had happened?*



Harlem Race Riots

In July 1964, 15-year-old James Powell was shot by a white off-duty police officer in front of a dozen witnesses. Charging that the incident was an act of police brutality, an estimated 4,000 Harlem residents took to streets and launched a large-scale riot, breaking widows, setting fires and looting local businesses.



The eruption of violence soon spread to the nearby neighborhood of Bedford-Stuyvesant and continued for six nights, resulting in the death of one resident, over 100 injuries, and 465 arrests. The **riot was the first in a series** of devastating race-related riots that ripped through several American cities between 1964 and 1965.

Decision: *Would you join the resistance and protest segregation and racial inequality, collaborate with and support the status quo in America, or act as if nothing had happened?*

Selma March

The Selma to Montgomery marches were a series of nonviolent protests to demonstrate the desire of African-Americans to exercise their constitutional right to vote and in defiance of segregationist repression. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) planned a march from Selma, Alabama to the state capital of Montgomery.



On “Bloody Sunday” March 7, 1965, about 600 marchers headed east out of Selma but only made it only 6 blocks to the Edmund Pettus Bridge when state and local lawmen attacked them with clubs and tear gas. Two days later, Martin Luther King, Jr., led a symbolic march to the bridge where they were again stopped. Then civil rights leaders sought court protection for a third, full-scale march from Selma to the state capitol in Montgomery. On March 21, about 3,000 marchers set out for Montgomery, walking 12 miles a day and sleeping in fields. By the time they reached the capitol on Thursday, March 25, they were

25,000-strong.

Decision: *Would you join the resistance and protest injustice, segregation, and racial inequality, collaborate with and support the status quo in America, or act as if nothing had happened?*

Martin Luther King Assassinated

In the spring of 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. travelled to Memphis, Tennessee, to support a sanitation workers’ strike. On the night of April 3, he gave a speech that ended, “I’ve seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land. And I’m happy tonight. I’m not worried about anything. I’m not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.”

The next day, April 4, 1968, King was standing on the second-floor balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis when a sniper’s bullet struck him in the neck. He was rushed to a hospital, but pronounced dead an hour later, at the age of 39.

His assassination led to an outpouring of anger among African-Americans, as well as a period of national mourning.

Decision: *Would you join the resistance and protest injustice, segregation, and racial inequality, collaborate with and support the status quo in America, or act as if nothing had happened?*

