

1. Describe the difficulties that Black Americans faced in early 1950's

African-Americans had suffered over centuries. They used to suffer from slavery and in the early 1950's they were suffering from racial discrimination. The white people considered black people as inferior to society and, that they should be second-class in society. Politically the black people faced difficulties such as voting, injustice and the Jim Crow Laws, series of anti-black laws that legalizes segregation [Ferris]. Economically they faced difficulties with jobs and banks. And socially, they faced difficulties with lynching, an execution of somebody that is considered guilty of a crime, by a crowd of people [oxford], and education.

In the early 1950's, African Americans were facing racial difficulties in political ways. They wanted to vote and be judged equally and have equal rights as white people in America. In the Northern parts segregation and discrimination wasn't as server as the southern parts of the US. Although the fifteenth amendment gave black people the right to vote in 1970 [Baic], black people faced intimidation and lynching by the white people and those violence prevented them from trying to register to vote. In Mississippi, only 5% of African-Americans were registered to vote. [Walsh p.376] Also in order to register to vote, their ancestors must have had the right to vote before the civil war (grandfather clauses), had to pay poll taxes (taxes needed to be paid to vote), needed to be a democrat but only white people could be democrat and they had to take a literacy test. [Ferris](Below is a sample of the literacy test that blacks had to take.)

1. If a person charged with treason denies his guilt, how many persons must testify against him before he can be convicted? Two
2. At what time of day on January 20 each four years does the term of the president of the United States end? 12 noon
3. If the president does not wish to sign a bill, how many days is he allowed in which to return it to Congress for reconsideration? Ten
4. If a bill is passed by Congress and the President refuses to sign it and does not send it back to Congress in session within the specified period of time, is the bill defeated or does it become law? It becomes law unless Congress adjourns before the expiration of 10 days

[crmvet] There were also questions that required you to name all the vice-presidents and the judges of the Supreme Court in US history. [ferris]

Voting rights weren't the only political difficulties African-Americans faced. In courts, African-Americans got injustice in trials because the white judges and all-white jury would rule unfairly towards black Americans. For instance, Emmett Till was murdered by two white men who were acquitted by a white judge and an all-white jury. Also, official and legal discriminations, Jim Crow Laws (laws that segregated the African-American from white Americans in US), took place in the South against black people. [p.376] The Jim Crow Law contained laws of all sorts of criteria such as education, intermarriage, barbers, burial, restaurants, public facilities (pools, parks, Restrooms, etc.) and son on. For example, in the state of Mississippi, the promotion of social or intermarriage equality was considered illegal and if anyone did promote equality they could be fined and or imprisoned. [Udayton] Also, police offices and other law officers participated or didn't try to prevent the beatings that took place against black people. [Walsh p.376] Arthur Raper, who studied one hundred lynchings quoted that, "at least one half of the lynchings are carried out with police officers participating, and that in nine-tenths of the others the officers either condone or wink at the mob action." [Yale]

Economically, black people faced difficulties in jobs and other places. Such as discrimination in employment, white teachers earned 30% more than black teachers. Also, even though black workers doubled their wages about \$1000 per year, the discrimination and the prejudice they faced prevented them from getting a reasonable salary. White workers earned twice the amount of black workers. [Walsh p.376] Also, the employment problems they faced started from education. African-Americans couldn't get a decent education because white Americans in the South believed that an African-American advancing in society would be a dangerous thing. Therefore, without any decent education, they couldn't advance in society, which kept them poor. Also white people would cut off black people who supported the NAACP in the South, from the society. For example, Levi Pearson supported the NAACP and was against segregation. Therefore, the bank refused to credit him, which prevented him from

buying fertilizers and other materials for his farm therefore, his crops, rotted and he couldn't earn money. [historylearningsite] The market of suburban housing was closed to black people even if they were celebrities. When trying to find a house in the suburbs the broker would use a wide range of excuses to avoid selling black people houses in the suburbs. Therefore, it was almost impossible without help, for a black person to get a house in the suburbs. [uchicago]

Black people probably faced discrimination socially, the most. In the state of Mississippi, people who tried to vote faced lynching. Eight African-American people were lynched and a young woman, Autherine Lucy, was almost lynched because she tried to enroll to the University of Alabama. [historylearningsite] And black people were beaten and shot to death. For example, Emmett Till, a 14-year old black boy visiting relatives in Mississippi from Chicago put the money in Carolyn Bryant's hand when he was paying money for his purchases and "wolf-whistled" at her while leaving the store. Therefore, Carolyn Bryant's husband, Roy Bryant, and his half-brother, J.W. Milam kidnapped Emmett Till at 2 a.m from his uncle's cabin and three days later his body was found at the bottom of a river wired to a fan and severely beaten and shot. His eye was hanging down to his cheeks and his nose was broken and there was a bullet hole through his head. [black-collegian] The murderers were not only acquitted by all white jury trial but also, later on sold their story of murdering Emmett Till to a magazine for \$4000. [smu]

Good or even decent education was also hard to get. For example, black people were unable to go to the best universities. There were huge gaps between the education that black people were getting and the education the white people were getting. It wasn't at all close to "separate but equal" in education. For example, no black colleges had courses that led to Ph.D., only two had medical courses, no courses of engineering or architecture, law was only studied in one or two places. However, those courses existed in white colleges. Texas had blacks-only law school, which only included three classrooms and three teachers. In Oklahoma, colleges had separate facilities for black students and separate seats in classrooms labeled "colored". Also, white public schools were fully funded by the state, unlike black public

schools that were poor and limited. White children got to have buses funded by the state to pick them up while black students didn't. In Mississippi, black public schools were using used books from the white schools and the school year was shorter (less education) and the teachers' salary was lower. Some African-Americans didn't support the integration of schools because they feared the segregation within the school in an integrated school (Therefore, not integrated I reality). Some extreme racists, in the southern states such as Mississippi, claimed that communists were behind the decision of desegregating schools. [historylearningsite] Also, black protesters' houses were bombed and the protesters suffered and were intimidated. For example, Martin Luther King participated, led, in the Montgomery bus boycott. Therefore, his house was fire bombed. [spartucus].

Socially, the difficulties they faced were mostly lynching and education as white people were determined to make them second-class citizens. So, they decided to make them politically second-class too by putting obstacles to prevent black people from voting. And economically, the white people decided to eliminate unfriendly NAACP supporters by making them unable to continue their work. Therefore, in the early 1950's black people faced a lot of difficulties that needed to be dealt with in the future.

2. Why did the Civil Rights movement develop in the 1950's?

In the 1950's the civil rights movement for black people NAACP made huge developments and progress. For the first time with the law on their side and a new young leader, Martin Luther King, their future is bright and more and more people began to support the civil rights movement. No matter what obstacles black people face before them, those obstacles motivate them more people to end segregation.

Before World War Two, the army was segregated and the Jim Crow Laws existed in the South and African-Americans faced extreme discrimination from the society and the government. Such as, in the US army there were only two black officers in the Army because it was known that no black officer could command to a white soldier. [century-of-flight] And the Navy didn't even have a black officer. The US forces wouldn't let black people fly. For example, Eugene Bullard, a decorated pilot, wasn't allowed to fly in the US Air Corps even though he passed the medical test because the US Air Corps didn't accept African-Americans to fly at all. And many soldiers couldn't become pilots because flying lessons were too expensive for most black Americans and the military didn't give them the opportunity to learn how to fly. Therefore in 1939, there were only 125 African-American pilots who were licensed to fly. [century-of-flight]

When African-Americans went to the Second World War, some had hoped that they could get away from the segregation and discrimination they had faced in the US society. Therefore, over one million African-Americans joined the US forces. Philip Randolph led a march on Washington D.C, President Roosevelt didn't want any attention of foreign countries go to the US's racial discrimination because it would embarrass him. Therefore, President Roosevelt and Philip Randolph discussed and reached an agreement that discrimination against black people in industrial and governmental jobs would be banned. [wisc] However, the Navy still had segregated units and gave black people the poorest jobs and the Marine didn't even accept black people. Some black units in the US forces received sticks instead of guns for their training unlike white units. [livinghistoryfarm] During 1941-1942, all positions of the US forces opened to

qualified black people. Also, the war needed mass production therefore, around two million African-Americans were working in factories by around 1944. From 1941 to 1945 the membership of the NAACP rose from 50,000 to 450,000. Which meant more and more people became aware of the segregation and was determined to stop it.

After World War Two, in 1948 President Truman ended segregation by executive order rather than through legislation because [trumanlibrary], he has tried to pass legislation through congress and his result wasn't very successful or not very successful therefore he gave executive orders. President Truman tried to make lynching unconstitutional however the congress didn't accept the bill. [wisc] In the southern states of the US segregation continued therefore, some black veterans who came from the South didn't return home but used their skills that they have learnt in the military to find a job in the city. For example, John Farr, black veteran, worked as an airplane mechanic during WW2. Therefore, when he returned home, he wanted a job as a car mechanic. He applied for a mechanic's job in York, Nebraska. However, the owner wouldn't hire him as a mechanic but offered him a job of cleaning the shop. John eventually took the job and had to work his way up to become a mechanic. [livinghistoryfarm] Black veterans didn't only suffer in job finding but because of the Jim Crow Law they faced discrimination in restaurants too. For example, Rupert Timmingham and eight other black soldiers went into a lunchroom in the South and tried to buy a cup of coffee but they couldn't. The manager told them that they could get some coffee and sandwiches in the back kitchen. Then, around two-dozen German war prisoners with two American guards came in and sat down at a table. They weren't thrown out but instead had their meal served. [worldwar2history] Black Americans who fought for their country were treated worse than German war prisoners.

In the summer of 1950, thirteen black parents tried to get their child into a local white school, including Linda Brown's father, Oliver Brown. Linda Brown was a seven year old that had to walk one mile, going through a railroad switchyard to get to her school. The principle turned them down and told them that they had to enroll their children to one of the

African-American schools in the city. [thinkquest] Oliver Brown went to the McKinley Burnett, head of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) in Topeka, who was waiting for a case of segregation in public schools. [watson] Black schools were short on supplies and didn't have the latest textbooks and the classrooms were too small and crowded. They first fought in the state courts but lost. The state court said separate but equal school systems for black and white children from the Plessy vs. Ferguson. Also the state court stated that treating children like lower class now would make them accept the situation in the future and that it is the time that black people of all ages are treated like lower class. The NAACP decided to take the case to the Supreme Court on October 1st, 1951. Other cases similar to the Brown case joined together to form one big case. The Supreme Court first heard of the case in December 9th, 1952. The arguments went on for three days. Lawyers representing the Brown case argued that black and white schools are separate from each other should be if there's any proof that blacks are inferior as to whites. The Supreme Court discussed the case and asked several questions to the lawyers of both sides. During the process one justice died and had to be replaced. A year from the first hearing, the Supreme Court heard the case once again. On May 17th, 1954 after three years, the case was finally over in favor of Linda Brown. [thinkquest] It was a landmark decision and, Chief Justice Earl Warren stated that the Supreme Court believes that "segregation of children in public schools solely on the basis of race, even through the physical facilities and other "tangible" factors may be equal, deprive the children of minority group of equal educational opportunities..." The Brown vs. Board of Education made desegregation of public schools mandatory. [watson] This was the first time that the NAACP had the law on their side. [heroism] Therefore, the NAACP knew if they took more segregation cases to the Supreme Court they will be ruled unconstitutional and one by one, public facilities would be desegregated.

In August of 1955, a fourteen-year-old boy from Chicago went to visit relative in Money, Mississippi. [black-collegian] His mother wanted him to be careful because he wasn't used to the severe segregation in the South and

warned him, "Be careful. If you have to go down on your knees and bow when a white person goes past, do it willingly." On August 24th, Emmett and his cousin and his friends went into a store where Carolyn Bryant, 21 years old white woman, worked at the cash register. Before he went into the store he bragged about his girlfriend back home being white. Therefore, one of his friends suggested that he talk to the lady working at the cash register. [heroism] One of his friends testified in court that she saw him put the money in Carolyn Bryant's hand instead of on the counter and as he was supposed to in the South. [black-collegian] Also, he said "bye baby" to her on his way out and wolf-whistled at her. [watson] Carolyn's husband Roy Bryant wasn't at the store however, word spread throughout the community and he found out about the incident two days later. On 2 a.m August 28th Roy Bryant and his half-brother, J.W. Milam found and kidnapped Emmett Till from his uncle's

cabin. Three days later, August 31st, his body was found at the bottom of the Tallahatchie River, with a fan wired to his neck with a barbed wire, his right eye hanging to his cheek, his nose broken severely that it was flat and a



bullet hole through his head. Emmett's mother got the sheriff of Mississippi to release the body to her back to Chicago. Her coffin was tightly sealed so that no one could see his body. However, Emmett's mother demanded a hammer when her request to see her son was denied. After she saw Emmett's body she decided that everybody should see what the two murders had done to her son. More than 50 thousand people saw Emmett's body and a magazine published a picture of Emmett Till's remains, newspapers wrote articles about his death and the whole world was horrified by the brutal murder of Emmett Till. [black-collegian] Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam was acquitted from the murder and the kidnapping of Emmett Till by an all-white jury trial. They also sold their story of murdering Emmett Till to a magazine for \$4000. [smu] People in the North became more aware and the publicity focused the public's attention on the segregation in the South, which meant more NAACP supporters.

The Montgomery bus boycott occurred in December 1955 in

Montgomery, Alabama. Two teenagers were arrested in March and October for violating bus segregation laws. [montgomeryboycott] Rosa Parks, a seamstress and a long-term member of the NAACP, sat in the Montgomery bus in the first row that blacks were allowed to sit, fifth row. After a few bus stops a white man entered the bus, all the seats in the bus was full and the Jim Crow Law states that blacks must give up their seat to a white when all seats are full. Also, blacks and whites cannot sit in the same row. Therefore, the three other black people complained but went to stand in the back when the driver asked them to give up their seats. [watson] However, Rosa Parks refused and she was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and fined \$10. [montgomeryboycott]

After E.D. Nixon, president of local NAACP, posted bail and many people met to discuss and plan the boycott. The meeting wasn't a success however, people agreed to spread out words about the boycott. A black minister of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Martin Luther King Jr., believed that 60% of the people cooperating in the boycott would be enough. However the next morning he was amazed to see bus after bus empty. The group from the meeting of the night before met and formed MIA, Montgomery Improvement Association. King was elected president of the MIA and the MIA had a vote to decide whether to continue or not and the result was in favor of continuing the boycott. The Montgomery bus company and King and other important members of the MIA met to present a desegregation plan. The proposal was denied and the city officials threatened cab services that if they charge less than 45cents, they would be prosecuted. MIA designed a private taxi plan, which was a great success, in which black car owners would drive other blacks. [watson] Black people were arrested and prosecuted for a very minimal traffic laws. For example, M.L. King was jailed, for speeding. [montgomeryboycott] The Montgomery bus-company started to realize that the boycott was bad for business and they wanted it to stop and the Supreme Court ruled that segregation on buses are unconstitutional. Therefore, the Montgomery bus-company would desegregate their buses, after 13-months of boycott. [watson] After the day the bus company agrees to desegregate the buses, someone shoots into King's house.

[montgomeryboycott]

After the ruling of the Supreme Court that segregation in schools were illegal, nine black students (Little Rock nine), six girls and three boys aged 14 to 16, tried to enroll into Little Rock Central High School. [bbc] The Arkansas Governor disobeyed the ruling of the Supreme Court and sent the National Guard to prevent

black students from entering and an angry mob of white students and parents shouted out “Lynch her!” towards Elizabeth Eckford, one of the nine students trying to get into Little Rock High. When she tried to enter the building the guard raised his bayonet. [Source A]Daisy Bates, state conference president of the NAACP, who’s responsibility was to assure protective custody of the nine students had a rock thrown to her window attached with it a threatening note saying “Stone this time, Dynamite next.” Eight days later a KKK burned cross was found in her lawn with the message, “Go back to Africa. KKK.” This showed that the NAACP were successful in the protest and that the KKK felt threatened enough that they had to take action against it to try and stop the NAACP. This also made Bates more motivated to get those nine going to Little Rock High School. On Sept.23,



after being blocked by the National Guard in the entrance, Bates sent a telegram to President Eisenhower asking for his support. The President responded by sending 1000 federal troops to escort the nine to the school for the whole year while they are attending school. [essortment] And the Governor was taken to court and ordered to withdraw the National Guard.

The peaceful method of protest taken by Martin Luther King Jr. in the Montgomery bus boycott, showed people how successful it is and people began to put their faith in M.L. King. M.L. King’s methods were inspired by Mahatma Gandhi’s method of non-violent protest to liberate India from the control of the British. He inspired a lot of black people and wrote an article in 1959, “When Negro uses force in self-defense he does not lose support, he may even win it, by the courage and self-respect it reflects...his struggle will not

be free of violence begun by his enemies, and he will need great courage and willingness to defeat this violence. But if he seeks it and organizes it, he cannot win.” This mainly means that you shouldn’t use violence for protest.

Martin Luther King and the NAACP working along each other have helped black people have hope in their future. The successes made in the Supreme Court makes the NAACP more determined than ever to abolish segregation and the people start to see that ending segregation will come true. The new light in their lives helped them get through obstacles that were placed in front of them and get more supporters. And by the end of 1950’s the black people had made so much progress in ending segregation than ever before.

3. To what extent had the Civil Rights movement been successful by the late 1960's?

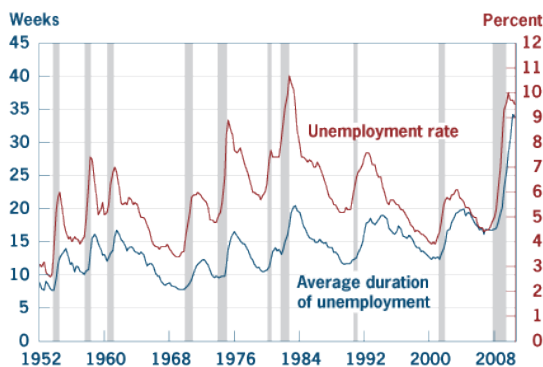
Up until the 1960's the US has experienced quite a lot of dramatic changes in which most of it seems successful. Civil Rights movement has been successful by peaceful methods and some violent methods helped Civil Rights movement get the President to do something. Political, economic, cultural and social problems were faced by the black people and some were very successful and some weren't as much.

By the late 1960's the Civil Rights movement have been politically very successful. The success included the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in which the segregation in public places (schools, libraries, pools, etc.) and in businesses (restaurants, theaters, barbers, etc.) and discrimination in employment based on race, gender, etc. has been banned. This is a great success because black people and white people are considered as equals in public places, businesses and employment. [ourdocuments] The Voting Rights Act in 1965 was a law that would let black Americans vote without having to take a literacy test or without needing to pay any poll taxes. Therefore it let any American citizens able to vote. This was a huge success for the Civil Rights movement and it had a big effect on the overall number of African-Americans registered to vote. By 1966, only 4 states out of 13 main states in the South had less than 50% of their African-American population registered to vote. By 1968, 59% of the black people in Mississippi, the most racial discriminatory state known, were registered to vote. [historylearningsite] This number used to be 5% in Mississippi during the 1950's. [Walsh p.376] Also the Civil Rights Act in 1968 states that it is illegal to discriminate in the sale or rent of a house based on race, gender, etc. [hud] The Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Civil Rights Act of 1968 was all impacted by Martin Luther King and his march in August in Washington D.C in which 250,000 participated and a full media coverage put pressure on the US government to do something about segregation. The march was a protest demanding equal civil rights, voting rights, end of segregation in jobs and etc. Many people supported Martin Luther King therefore by the time the march took place, many white people were

supporting the Civil Rights movement as well as any black people. Martin Luther King also attracted foreign attention therefore they made it impossible for the US government not to act. The conclusion is that the Civil Rights movement was very successful politically because by the end of the 1960's, black people were legally equal to white people.

The economic status of African-Americans were better after the Civil

Figure 1. Unemployment Rate and Duration



Rights Act of 1964 was released which banned discrimination in employment based on race. On the graph [clevelandfed] we can see that from around the time that the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which banned the discrimination in employment based on race, came out the unemployment rate has decreased which is shown in

the red circle on the graph. The integration of public facilities and businesses might've caused the unemployment of some people but the job options were larger. Many new and better salary jobs opened in the North towards African-Americans. Also, they got tired of living in the same area and since Civil Rights Act in 1968 eliminated discrimination in sale or rent of housing based on race, people were more determined to move to the Northern parts of the US. In 1916, only 2% of Chicago's population was African-American by 1970 it has increased to 33%. More white people were leaving to the suburbs and black people were replacing them. [chicagohistory] The poverty rate early in the 1950s are said to be higher than 50% however by 1969 it has declined to 42.4% and seemed to keep declining. [jstor] Therefore, economically the Civil Rights movement was successful. Although more African-Americans are currently poorer than white Americans, the Civil Rights movement made a lot of progress and was very successful by the end of the 1960's.

The Social conditions of African-Americans were improving greatly but at the same time there were some not successful parts of the Civil Rights movement. By the end of the 1960's the public knew what had been going on

in the Southern states of the US. The opinion poll of the USA of the public's view of the most important problem facing the country in 1963 was, racial problems and in 1964, it was integration. [Source F] This result of the opinion poll shows that people in the US became more aware of problems and it also meant publicity for the Civil Rights movement. Publicity helped them get through many problems. For example, by the brutal murder of Emmett Till and the injustice of failing to accuse those of guilty focused the attention of the public to the segregation they faced in the South. Therefore, more and more white people began feeling sympathetic towards the African-Americans in the South and started to join protests and began to support and take part in the protests. Martin Luther King's peaceful protests were a huge success by the end of 1960's. His peaceful protest inspired by Gandhi's methods of liberating India was very powerful and attracted many attention and gotten lots of media attention. His ways of protest was successful in many occasions that many people would support him. It also proved that African-Americans aren't violent irrational human beings unworthy of equal rights as white citizens. But instead showed others how much they deserve to be treated equally and made white violent mobs look worse. For example, when Martin Luther King led a non-violent campaign in Birmingham, Alabama, which was known to be the most segregated place in the South. Eugene Bull Connor, city commissioner, used baton charges, fire hoses and police dogs to attack non-violent protesters. The public saw this and sympathized towards the black even more. Which eventually ended up pressuring President Kennedy to propose a legislation, which later became known as Civil Rights Act of 1964. [encyclopediaofalabama]

On the other hand organizations such as Black Power weren't so successful because their aim was to become totally segregated and have a separate country of their own within the borders of the USA. And because they never actually achieved this goal, they weren't successful in their civil rights movement. The nation of Islam was another movement of the African-Americans in which they claimed that Christianity is a white mans' religion and that Muslims (Islam) as a black person's religion. The leader was Elijah Muhammad. The organization required followers to substitute "X" as

your family name because, their family name is considered as Christian slave names. They also wanted a separate country, which they didn't achieve, for their long-term goal. They also called for race war and were caught being violent. The Nation of Islam has their own views of Islam and many Muslims in the US has stated that they have different views of Islam and their views don't represent each other. [aim] Malcolm X, former member of Nation of Islam. He left the organization because he found out that the leader of the Nation of Islam, Elijah Muhammad had deceived him and he was disappointed and started to think that the Nation of Islam is just an organization built from many lies. [malcomex] Malcolm X was successful in showing people that black people would not put up with the violence that was aimed towards black people. On the other hand, he wasn't successful in building a separate community without the help of the white people. The black panthers were the most violent, secret power groups were involved in violent fights. The panthers carried guns. Its leader was Stokely Carmichael. Over the years many panthers have been killed by the gunfights with the police. [spartucus] During the 1960's black power riots broke out. The riots were about the poverty and the slum housings (ghettoes). Some of the riots killed people as black militant open fired at police. In the Watts district four days of rioting took place. Black people burned black people's shops and houses as well as white people's houses and shops. [american1960] President Johnson took action by proposing a legislation that would help improve the lives of the black people. However, "everybody is tense....no jobs, zero tolerance in housing projects....people scared of the police," stated Alice Harris who was there when the riots took place. The riot was aimed at the poverty and slum housing therefore since not much had changed the riot was unsuccessful except for the fact that the president proposed legislation. Therefore the Civil rights movement was equally unsuccessful as it was successful.

One of the cultural aspects of the black community is that by the late 1960's, many militant black organizations were emphasizing the phrase "Black is beautiful." This was a good thing because it's telling black people that they should be proud to be who they are, blacks. And getting that idea to

go into people's minds was successful because many people now days are proud and happy to be black. Malcolm X was a positive cultural figure because of his emphasis on "Black is beautiful," and his appeal that black people should be able to defend him or herself. Martin Luther King was also a positive emphasis on black culture because he showed the peacefulness of the black culture and how peace can make dreams come true. However, some of the negative cultural publicity was violence in the riots of Watts district.

Many protesters and organizations had helped the advancement of the Civil Rights movement and had many successes as well as failures. Over the years of 1950 to 1969, the methods of protest begin to change but each method has their own successes and failures. But Overall, the Civil Rights movement was successful or else there might've been still segregation now.