

Grade Level: 8th Grade

Topic: Voting Rights Then and Now: Freedom Summer 1964

Essential Questions:

What does the right to vote really mean?
What sacrifices are required to guarantee the right to vote freely?

Resources:

- A. Two excerpts, one from SNCC Mississippi Project Handbook, p. 2; and one from Voter Registration Summer Prospects. Complete resources are available at Wisconsin State Historical Society at <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/pdfs/LIB-A-Freedom-Summer-Sourcebook.pdf> and at <http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15932coll2/id/9863>
- B. Voter Registration Figures 1st Congressional District Mississippi
<http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15932coll2/id/4079>
- C. A memo from Bob Moses on missing Freedom Summer Workers (<http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15932coll2/id/2587>) and a New York Times article about the missing Freedom Summer Workers (<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/big/0621.html#article>)
- D. Excerpt from the Voting Rights Act of 1965
http://a614.g.akamai.net/7/614/2201/v001/aetn.download.akamai.com/2201/thc/classroom/pdfs/10days/Freedom_Summer.pdf

Writing Types	Guiding Question(s)	Prompts	Reminders/Things to Consider (Student-Friendly Rubric Descriptors)
Argument	What sacrifices were made to promote voter registration and the right to vote during the summer of 1964?	Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper stating your support of the freedom schools and efforts to register voters during the summer of 1964.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State a clear claim related to the resources and the prompt.• Use relevant evidence from at least two of the sources to support your claim.• Clarify relationships between ideas and connect evidence to the argument.• Use conventions correctly; make sure your argument is readable.
Informative/ Explanatory	What were the results of the efforts of workers like those who went missing and other Freedom Summer workers? What are the differences in voting rights then compared to voting rights now?	Using information from at least two of the sources, compare how voting rights are different now from how voting rights were during the summer of 1964, and how Freedom Summer changed the United States.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State a clear controlling idea that addresses resources and the prompt.• Use relevant details from at least two of the sources to explain the controlling idea.• Clarify relationships among ideas and those that explain the controlling idea.• Make sure your article is readable and that conventions are correctly used