U.S. Civil Rights Civic Investigation Project

Purpose: The purpose of the U.S. Civil Rights Investigation Project is to have students investigate civil rights issues of today. Students must work in groups of four and you can work with members from other classes (Mr. Smith, Mr. Burns, Mr. Prange, Mr. Magealas).

You will be creating a Prezi or Power Point presentation. The presentation must contain the following:

Part 1:

1. **WRITE THE FOLLOWING AS THE HEADER:** "History of the Movement."

2. Write a brief summary about the history of the movement you will be researching (e.g. Asian American Movement, Chicano Youth Movement, Disabled Rights, Gay Liberation Movement, Native American Movement, Women’s Movement, Farm Labor Movement, etc.)

Part 2:

1. **WRITE THE FOLLOWING AS THE HEADER:** "Has the United States achieved its goals set forth in the Civil Rights movement?"

2. Then write “Goals of the Civil Rights Movement” and number the 5 goals underneath.
   a. Desegregation and equal access to education
   b. Equality in the workforce
   c. Equal housing rights
   d. Voting rights
   e. End public segregation

3. Introduce the group that you are researching like this: “We are researching _____ because we feel many of their rights are still being violated. (You can choose a group from Handout #1 or come up with another, pre-approved by me)

4. You can use articles or pictures as pieces of evidence that indicate that some of the civil rights of your particular group are still being violated or that your group is still marginalized in our society. Be sure to list captions underneath each photo to explain. **Three (3) photos/images minimum.**
Part 3:

1. **WRITE THE FOLLOWING AS THE HEADER:** “Civic Inquiry Process - Investigation into Civil Rights of the ______________” (insert the name of the specific group that you are researching)

2. Create a flow chart with the following **headings:**
   a. “INQUIRY QUESTION”
   b. “INVESTIGATION”
   c. “CIVIL DIALOGUE”
   d. “COMMUNICATE CONCLUSIONS”

   An **INQUIRY QUESTION** is the over-arching question you are asking about your group – a question which cannot be easily answered with a “yes” or “no”. It should spark a desire to investigate further. For example, “Do young people vote less than older people?” is **NOT** a good inquiry question. A **GOOD** inquiry question would be “What are the underlying causes of low voter turnout among young people?”

   An **INVESTIGATION** is how you retrieve the information to help you investigate your group. It **MUST** be documented and recorded on your Data Retrieval Sheets (Handout #3), and can be in the form of internet research, books, surveys you conduct, personal interviews (oral histories).

   A **CIVIL DIALOGUE** is how we discussed the issue in class (by panel discussion, survey). This can be as simple as a picture. At this time, the rest of the class is required to write down at least one question they still have unanswered about the marginalized group. You will give these questions to the person (people) who are researching that group.

   On the **COMMUNICATE CONCLUSIONS** part of the chart, you will refer back to your Civic Inquiry question and communicate (by bullets or a short summary paragraph) your findings about the question.

Part 4:

1. **WRITE THE FOLLOWING AS THE HEADER:** “Taking Informed Action”

2. Now that you’ve identified a civil rights issue within your particular marginalized group, you must identify a specific action you will take (Handout #2).

3. **Show evidence of your actions OR plan of action** that you would take to help that group. The maximum score you can get is an 89% if you DO NOT show evidence of an action you take.

   **Note:** The **best projects** will be presented to all the U.S. history classes and during Open House for extra credit!
Civil Rights Groups

Alliance for Justice
The Alliance for Justice is a national association of environmental, civil rights, mental health, women's, children's and consumer advocacy organizations.

AFL-CIO
The American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) is the voluntary federation of America's unions, representing more than 13 million working women and men nationwide.

Alliance for National Renewal
The Alliance for National Renewal (ANR) is a coalition of over 200 national and local organizations dedicated to the principles of community renewal.

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
ADC, the national association of Arab Americans, is a grassroots civil rights organization that works in every sphere of public life to promote and defend the rights of the Arab American community.

American Association for Affirmative Action (AAAA)
The American Association for Affirmative Action is the association of professionals managing affirmative action, equal opportunity, diversity and other human resource programs.

Anti-Defamation League
The Lawyers Division is a group of prominent New York lawyers, committed to realization of the objectives and policy goals of the ADL. Our mission is as follows: To stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all citizens alike.

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
Founded in 1992, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO, is the first and only national organization of Asian Pacific American union members.

Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights
The Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights is committed to the revitalization of a progressive civil rights agenda at the national level. Its work is grounded in the belief that such an agenda benefits the entire country, not just particular interest groups.

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
CAIR is dedicated to presenting an Islamic perspective on issues of importance to the American public. In offering that perspective, we seek to empower the Muslim community in America through political and social activism.

FairTest
The National Center for Fair & Open Testing is an advocacy organization that works to end the abuses, misuses and flaws of standardized testing and ensures that evaluation of students and workers is fair, open, and educationally sound.

Equal Justice Network
Its mission is to strengthen and expand the provision of civil legal assistance to low-income people through the collaborative efforts of a community of advocates that includes legal services programs, the private bar, social service and community organizations, law schools, courts, advocacy groups at the state and national levels, and poor people as advocates for themselves.

Institute for the Study of Homelessness and Poverty
ISHP a nonprofit organization that facilitates access to accurate data and research about homelessness and poverty, focusing principally on Southern California but also indexing materials of statewide, national and global importance. All of our services are free of charge. The Institute is "linked to" from a number of other organizations, such as the Research Forum on Children, Families, and the New Federalism, SERVE, the Joint
Center on Poverty Research, UCLA, and The Institute for Research on Poverty, National Health Care for the Homeless Council and a host of other organizations.

**International Organization for Migration**

ION is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society.

**Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law**

The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, was formed in 1963 at the request of President John F. Kennedy to involve the private bar in providing legal services to address racial discrimination. The Committee's major objective is to use the skills and resources of the bar to obtain equal opportunity for minorities by addressing factors that contribute to racial justice and economic opportunity. Given our nation's history of racial discrimination, de jure segregation, and the de facto inequities that persist, the Lawyers' Committee's primary focus is to represent the interest of African Americans in particular, other racial and ethnic minorities, and other victims of discrimination, where doing so can help to secure justice for all racial and ethnic minorities.

**Leadership Conference on Civil Rights/Leadership Conference Education Fund**

Civilrights.org's mission is to empower the civil rights community to lead the fight for equality and social justice in the emerging digital society through the establishment of an online social justice network. Civilrights.org leverages communications technologies to create an online society committed to the continued pursuit of equality and fostering greater understanding and mutual respect for difference.

**Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund**

MALDEF's mission is to foster sound public policies, laws and programs to safeguard the civil rights of the 35 million Latinos living in the United States and to empower the Latino community to fully participate in our society.

**Michigan Student Study**

The Michigan Student Study is a comprehensive multi-method longitudinal research initiative. It tracks over 2,000 students over their four years of college to assess how experiences with racial/ethnic diversity on campus impact their development.

**Mobility International USA**

As a US-based national non-profit organization, the mission of Mobility International USA (MIUSA) is to empower people with disabilities around the world through international exchange, information, technical assistance and training, and to ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities in international exchange and development programs.

**NAACP**

The primary focus of the NAACP continues to be the protection and enhancement of the civil rights of African Americans and other minorities. Membership, the lifeblood of the Association, is open to anyone believing in the basic tenets of the NAACP.

**NAACP Legal Defense Fund**

For more than half a century, LDF has used the law as a powerful tool to pry open doors of opportunity long closed to African Americans, other people of color, women, and the poor.

**National Action Network**

The National Action Network (NAN), founded in 1991 by Rev. Al Sharpton, is a civil rights organization whose mission is to be the voice of empowerment for the disenfranchised throughout America. NAN offers a committed national advocacy network of activists, volunteers and religious leaders guided by the non-violent civil protest doctrines of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that speak against racism, bigotry and bias.

**National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (NAPALC)**

NAPALC works to advance the legal and civil rights of Asian Pacific Americans through litigation, public education and public policy.
National Association for the Education of African American Children with Learning Disabilities
The National Association for the Education of African American Children with Learning Disabilities (NAEAAACLID) was founded in 1999 for the purpose of increasing awareness and promoting an understanding of the specific issues facing African American children. The organization’s mission is to link information and resources provided by an established network of individuals and organizations experienced in minority research and special education with parents, educators, and others responsible for providing a quality education for all students.

National Association of Protection & Advocacy Systems
NAPAS, the voluntary national membership association of protection and advocacy systems and client assistance programs, assumes leadership in promoting and strengthening the role and performance of its members in providing quality legally based advocacy services.

National Coalition on School Diversity
The National Coalition on School Diversity (NCSD) is pressing for a more significant commitment to racial and economic integration in U.S. Department of Education programs – in magnet schools, charter schools, through interdistrict transfers under No Child Left Behind, and in the new education funds Race to the Top and the Investing in Innovation Fund.

National Civic League
The National Civic League (NCL) is a 107-year-old non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to strengthening citizen democracy by transforming democratic institutions.

National Council of La Raza
The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan, tax-exempt organization established in 1968 to reduce poverty and discrimination, and improve life opportunities for Hispanic Americans.

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
NGLTF is the national progressive organization working for the civil rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people, with the vision and commitment to building a powerful political movement.

National Women’s Law Center
The National Women’s Law Center has worked since its inception in 1972 to protect and advance the progress of women and girls at work, in school, and in virtually every aspect of their lives. The Center brings to its work extensive subject expertise in the major areas of family economic security, health, employment and education. The Center uses a variety of tools to maximize its impact in bringing women’s concerns to public policy makers, advocates and the public, including public policy research, monitoring and analysis; litigation, advocacy and coalition-building; and public education.

National Urban League
The National Urban League is the nation’s oldest and largest community-based movement devoted to empowering African Americans to enter the economic and social mainstream.

Native American Rights Fund
The Native American Rights Fund mission is the preservation of tribal existence, the protection of tribal natural resources, the promotion of human rights, the accountability of governments, the development of Indian law and educating the public about Indian rights, laws, and issues.

Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights
PACER’s mission is to expand opportunities and enhance the quality of life of children and young adults with disabilities and their families, based on the concept of parents helping parents.

Rainbow/PUSH Coalition
The National Rainbow/PUSH Coalition (RPC) is a multiracial, multi-issue, international membership organization founded by Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. We’re working to move the nation and the world toward social, racial and economic justice. From our national headquarters in Chicago and a bureau in Washington, D.C., we’re uniting people of diverse ethnic, religious, economic and political backgrounds to make America’s promise of “liberty and justice for all” a reality.
Civic Actions

Directions: Choose from the following actions to put forth your group’s best effort in making your solution a reality.

- Add your comment to a widely read blog or respond to a widely followed twitter
- Call a congress person or someone with authority
- Engage in a dialogue with community members (in and out of school)
- Tweet to a political group or to a local state or national officeholder
- Write a PopVox about your Issue
- Write for a public audience (newspaper, blog, tweet)
- Create a petition (online or paper)
- Door to door
- Exhibit learning to community members
- Facebook group to raise money for a candidate or cause
- Learn about community organizations and share your findings
- Organize a boycott
- Organize a flash mob or silent protest
- Organize an action on twitter or other social media
- Participate/organize protest action
- Phone banking
- Present to a public audience
- Share information from a community survey, oral history, interview
- Speaking at a community event
- Twitter or Facebook campaign to influence how people in your network vote in upcoming elections
- Use social media to circulate the message
- Write a letter to a person in power (City Council or School Board)
- Begin a Public Service Organization or start a club on campus
- Create a blog about the issue
- Create a PSA and post it
- Create a webinar (Web Seminar)
- Create a wiki page
- Create an online resource on a topic (through Gooru, VoiceThread, Google Sites, etc.)
- Create or edit and share provocative/sharable media (images, cartoons, video clips)
- Host a community event
- Make info graphics to educate others
- Organize a town hall meeting that includes elected representatives, community members and students
- Participate in a “Penny Harvest” fundraiser
- Participating on a city level committee
- Run a workshop to teach someone about a subject
- If you have any other ideas not listed on this page please share w/ me as soon as possible.
Data Retrieval Sheet

Source: □ Primary □ Secondary

Type: □ Internet □ Book □ Survey □ Journal
□ Article □ Interview □ Other