

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Grassroots Power & Legal Tides: 8th Grade Civil Rights Clash

Legislative analysis and grassroots strategy—examine how Diane Nash, Bayard Rustin, and the SNCC dismantled systemic barriers to American democracy.

1. Which specific strategy did Diane Nash and the Nashville Student Movement utilize to prove that desegregation was economically viable for downtown merchants?

Answer: B) Selective buying campaigns and targeted sit-ins

Nash and Nashville students used 'selective buying' (boycotts) alongside sit-ins to apply economic pressure, eventually forcing the Mayor to admit segregation was wrong.

2. The 1964 project known as ___ brought hundreds of Northern college students to Mississippi to register Black voters and establish 'Freedom Schools.'

Answer: C) Freedom Summer

Freedom Summer, organized by COFO (led by SNCC and CORE), aimed to expand voter registration in the South through high-visibility volunteerism.

3. Bayard Rustin, the chief organizer of the March on Washington, was often kept in the background by other leaders due to his identity as a gay man and former ties to communism.

Answer: A) True

Despite his brilliance in logistics and nonviolent theory, Rustin was frequently sidelined to avoid giving political ammunition to segregationists.

4. How did the 'Southern Manifesto' of 1956 represent a challenge to the Civil Rights Movement's legal victories?

Answer: A) It was a pledge by over 100 Southern congressmen to resist desegregation by all 'lawful means.'

The Southern Manifesto showed that political leaders at the federal level actively worked to undermine Supreme Court rulings like *Brown v. Board of Education*.

5. The ____, founded in 1960, evolved from the lunch counter sit-ins and eventually shifted from nonviolence toward Black Power under the leadership of Stokely Carmichael.

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Answer: B) SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee)

SNCC was the primary student-led organization that prioritized grassroots organizing over charismatic top-down leadership.

6. The 24th Amendment to the Constitution, ratified in 1964, successfully abolished the use of literacy tests as a requirement for voting in federal elections.

Answer: B) False

The 24th Amendment abolished poll taxes; literacy tests were not outlawed until the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

7. Fannie Lou Hamer's 1964 speech at the Democratic National Convention focused primarily on which obstacle to equality?

Answer: A) The lack of representation for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party

Hamer challenged the legitimacy of the all-white Mississippi delegation, demanding that the MFDP be seated to reflect the state's actual population.

8. The Supreme Court case ____ (1967) struck down all state laws banning interracial marriage, citing the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses.

Answer: B) Loving v. Virginia

Loving v. Virginia was a landmark civil rights decision that ended 'anti-miscegenation' laws across the United States.

9. What was the primary purpose of the 'Ten Point Program' authored by the Black Panther Party in 1966?

Answer: B) To demand an end to police brutality and call for economic and educational self-determination

The Black Panther Party's platform focused on self-defense, housing, education, and an end to federal government neglect of the Black community.

10. The Executive Order 9981, which desegregated the U.S. armed forces, was signed by President John F. Kennedy following the protests in Birmingham.

Answer: B) False

Executive Order 9981 was signed by President Harry S. Truman in 1948, well before the height of the 1960s movement.