

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Person: \_\_\_\_\_

### **A Taste of Civil Rights Project**

The period from 1865-1965 saw many changes to the status and acceptance of African-Americans. These hundred years are marked by gains and setbacks for the African-American community. In the period just following the Civil War, the United States attempted to grant black men equal status in law and government; however, many loopholes were discovered, and used to continually and legally discriminate against African-Americans. It was not until a hundred years after the peace at Appomattox that President Lyndon Johnson pushed for African-Americans to benefit from their full status as citizens of the United States.

This project is designed to allow you to explore one personality connected with the struggle for civil rights. Prominent Americans from throughout this time period will be explored, and you will have the opportunity to bring to life the ideas of your assigned American. The project will involve both proponents and opponents of the extension of civil rights to African-Americans. The culminating activity will allow you to assume the demeanor, dress, and philosophy of your assigned American at a dinner attended by people from throughout the hundred year struggle.

#### **The following are required components of the project:**

- Quote connected with civil rights (w/ source) due \_\_\_\_\_
- Autobiography with 3 credible sources due \_\_\_\_\_
- Name card with photograph due \_\_\_\_\_
- Role play performance due \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Part One: Quote 10 points**

You are required to obtain a quote from your assigned American that presents his/her views on civil rights. This quote, with source, is due on \_\_\_\_\_. It should also be presented during your presentation.

#### **Part Two: Autobiography 50 points**

You are required to write a 1-2 page autobiography from the persona of your assigned American. The autobiography **MUST** include information from at least **THREE** credible sources (cited in your bibliography). One of the three sources must be a book. The autobiography should present a brief, general account of "your" life; AND focus on "your" opinions and contributions to the Civil Rights struggle of the era. Make sure you include why you do or do not believe African-Americans should be granted full civil rights. How has your life experiences shaped your opinions on black civil rights? What are you most famous/infamous for in relation to civil rights? How was your contribution significant to the Civil Rights Movement? The autobiography is due \_\_\_\_\_

**Part Three: Name Card with Photograph 10 points**

You will create a name card that will be used at the dinner party. This name card should be visible from both sides and include a photograph (that is at least 4"x6") of your assigned American. The name card should be neat and sturdy. This is due in class \_\_\_\_\_

**Part Four: Role Play Performance 30 points**

You will assume the persona of your assigned American at a dinner to be held\_\_\_\_\_. The dinner will be attended by other Americans that represent competing views on civil rights that span the hundred year struggle. You will give a one minute presentation of who you are and what you represent. You may use note cards for REFERENCE ONLY...**NO READING!** Your quote should be the first thing you say to the audience. Make sure you focus your presentation on the civil rights struggle, not your general background. Dress appropriately for your assigned American and bring something to eat during our dinner. The following is the format for your presentation:

1. Start with a quote by your assigned American that deals with his/her views on civil rights.
2. State your name, where you are from, and the years you lived.
3. Explain your views on granting civil rights to African-Americans. Are you for or against it? Why or why not?
4. Tell us what you are most famous for doing in relation to black civil rights and why it was significant.

During the second half of the dinner party, be prepared to debate your views on black civil rights with fellow guests.

\*PLEASE NOTE: A large portion of your grade will come from participation during the dinner. You will lose points for "off-task" behavior and interruptions of speakers.

**Good luck!**