

Professional Development for Mississippi Educators on Civil Rights Movement History



Teaching for Change is available to offer workshops for Mississippi educators (pre- and in-service) on Civil Rights Movement history. This work is funded by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to support teaching about Civil Rights Movement and labor history. The overall goal is to promote a sustainable statewide learning community of classroom language arts, social studies, and history teachers in grades 6–12 for teaching hands-on, inquiry based U.S. history through the lens of race and class in Mississippi history.



Description

The workshops available are designed to introduce teachers to rigorous, student-centered, and interactive lessons they can use in the classroom to promote a greater understanding of Mississippi Civil Rights Movement history and skills in reading, writing, critical thinking, public speaking, and problem solving. The lessons are Common Core aligned.

Each workshop begins with an overview of the myths and facts about the Civil Rights Movement and their implications for students; a community building activity; a classroom lesson; and a chance to debrief and reflect on ways to adapt these lessons for their own schools.

Sample Workshops

Schools or districts can select from the following lessons to be introduced through the workshops:

Women Make History: An Untold Story of the Civil Rights Movement: Lesson that highlights the importance of women in the Civil Rights Movement and introduces students to many key women in U.S. and world history.

Sharecroppers Challenge U.S. Apartheid: The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party: Lesson on the history and challenges of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party at Atlantic City in 1964.

Medgar Evers and the Southern Freedom Movement: This role play introduces students to the voting rights struggle in the 1950s and 60s with a focus on the life and legacy of Medgar Evers.

Unsung Heroes: Encouraging Students to Appreciate Those Who Fought for Social Justice: Students research and share stories about unsung heroes in U.S. history.

The Color Line: A lesson on the countless colonial laws enacted to create division and inequality based on race. This helps students understand the origins of racism in the United States.

Murder Mystery: Shining a Light on the Story that the Newspapers Left Out: Lesson on the murder of voting rights activist Herbert Lee and witness Louis Allen in Amite County, Mississippi.

Exploring the History of Freedom Schools: A lesson on 1964 Mississippi Freedom Schools based on an analysis of primary documents. It allows students and teachers to explore the purpose and possibilities of public education today.

Testimonials from Teacher Workshops in Mississippi

“This presentation showed me how big of a role that race and equity plays in education.”

“I did not know about Freedom Summer and learned a lot about race, education, & equality.”

“The most useful part of the day was being introduced to multicultural literature and having the chance to discuss how the books can be used in the classroom.”

“This presentation made my understanding of the Civil Rights Movement deeper and more meaningful.”

“I learned more about Medgar Evers and what took place during Freedom Summer.”

Partners

Representatives from the following groups serve as partners and advisors to Teaching for Change for this Mississippi initiative.

Fannie Lou Hamer Institute @ COFO Human & Civil Rights Education Center

Hill Country Project

International Museum of Muslim Cultures

Jackson State University

Margaret Walker Center

Mississippi Dep't. of Education

National History Day in Mississippi

Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center

Tougaloo College

Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, Inc.

William Winter Institute

About Teaching for Change

Teaching for Change is a 25-year-old, non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C. with the mission to provide teachers and parents with the tools to create schools where students learn to read, write and change the world. Teaching for Change published *Putting the Movement Back Into Civil Rights Teaching*, a collection of articles and lessons on teaching about the Civil Rights Movement. Teaching for Change has received awards and recognition from the National Association for Multicultural Education, the Advancement Project, the Humanities Council of Washington D.C., and the Harvard Family Research Project.

Scheduling and More Information

The grant can fund up to two days of professional development per Mississippi school district; with travel, accommodations, and any additional time covered by the district. To learn more, contact project director Julian Hipkins III, jhipkins@teachingforchange.org