

## Mississippi Freedom Summer: The Civil Rights Movement

### A Social Studies Lesson

#### Grades 6-8

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#### Introductory Discussion

1. How did Western College and Oxford, Ohio play an integral role in the Civil Rights Movement?
2. How can we learn to connect the past with the present in the study of history?

#### Students will:

- Examine primary documents to gain an understanding of the Freedom Summer Training and its goals.
- Study the materials of Freedom Summer to study differing perspectives on the issue of Civil Rights and Social Justice.
- Understand and evaluate the role of Western College for Women in the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project.

#### Materials

Documents within the Freedom Summer Digital Collection will be used for this lesson.

<http://digital.lib.muohio.edu/fs/>

#### II. Concepts

Vocabulary: Civil Rights Movement

Social Justice

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Segregation

Oral History

Primary Resources

### III. Focus Activity

In groups or individually, student will examine materials from the Freedom Summer Digital Online Collection and discuss the following questions.

1. What was the Mississippi Freedom Summer training?
2. How was Western College for Women and Oxford, Ohio involved in the training?
3. What was the Civil Rights Movement?
4. Which organizations were involved in the training at the Mississippi Freedom Summer Training at Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio?
5. What was life like for African Americans who lived in the south during the sixties?
6. What role did the Freedom Summer volunteers who traveled to Mississippi have in the Civil Rights Movement?

### IV. Small Group Activity

Students will work individually and then break into small groups to perform the following task:

1. Each student will write a one paragraph character summary of each of the groups of different people involved in the Mississippi Summer Project that are listed below:
  - Freedom Summer Volunteer at the training in Oxford, Ohio
  - Police in Mississippi
  - Freedom Fighters
  - Politicians in Mississippi

Students will break into small groups and share their character summary so they will share their perspectives with their group. Each student will understand the concepts and perspectives of his/her peer group in their examination of the Freedom Summer materials.

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