

Name: _____

The Constitution and Civil Rights

What was school like for Mr. Gregory?

Is your school life like his?

Why do you think it has changed?

My ideas	More ideas
<p><i>Allow the students a few minutes to write down their ideas.</i></p> <p><i>Then hold a class discussion, collecting ideas, asking questions, letting them challenge each other's thinking.</i></p>	<p><i>After the class discussion, let them fill in this section of the chart.</i></p>

Do you think it would have changed without laws (constitutional amendments) being passed? Why or why not?

Hopefully many of our children will believe in the positive human spirit and write that "yes, people are good and would naturally change things that are wrong". At this point, if your class is ready for it and you wish to go into this depth, you may wish to bring up the "with all deliberate speed" clause that made the process of integration move as slowly as those in power wished it to. This also makes a nice transition to the next oral history clip from Norman Francis, whose white friends are oblivious to the racism they are part of. (Bringing in the idea that if you are privileged, do you notice the disenfranchisement of others.)

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Mr. Francis's fellow students didn't realize he was going to be discriminated against when they went for dinner.

Would it be possible to discriminate without meaning to?

Now think about your neighborhood. How integrated is it?

How about your school? How many teachers are African Americans?

If your school is like mine we only have a few African American teachers. Several of our lunch/afterschool staff are African American. It is a good talking point.

Let's look at our government. About what percentage of the Congress do you think is African American?

The House of Representatives has 435 members. 78 are African American.

The Senate has 100 members. 1 is African American

(November 2010. Source: www.thisnation.com/congress-facts.html)

Would it be possible to discriminate without meaning to?