

Civil Rights Timeline Submission

In this activity, students will conduct research and submit their work for possible inclusion in the civil rights timeline on NewseumED.

GRADE LEVEL: Middle and high school

TIME: More than 90 minutes

MATERIALS: NewseumED Timeline Submission Guidelines, Research Guide and Timeline Template (download)

PREPARE

1. Make copies of the handout and worksheets, one per student.
2. Give students access to the timelines on NewseumED.org.

DO

1. The class should familiarize themselves with people and events on the timeline.
2. After discussing the civil rights timeline, ask students if they know about the civil rights movement in your community (or lack thereof) ask them to brainstorm ways to learn more. List ideas on the board.
3. Conduct a research project to learn more about the civil rights era in their community. Students can work individually or in groups. To complete this project, students will follow these steps:
 - **Complete general research** about their community in the 1950s and 1960s, the impact of the civil rights movement and/or the community's contributions to the movement. Helpful sources will include books, newspaper archives, local historians, etc. They may wish to use the Research Guide to keep track of their findings.
 - Based on their findings, students **select a single event** on which to focus their research. This event, while it need not be well-known, should be something complex enough to justify researching it further, with an impact at the local level and/or beyond.
 - **Begin gathering evidence**, including primary sources, to deepen their knowledge. Sources may include interviews with participants, photographs from newspaper archives, museums or personal collections, etc. Students should view the online "Interviewing Essentials" video lesson for tips on how to prepare for and execute good interviews.
 - **Prepare your event for submission to be considered for the Newseum's timeline.**
4. Format content using the Timeline Template worksheet and use the NewseumED timeline submission guidelines handout for guidance.
5. Email the completed form to newseumed@newseum.org, with "Civil rights timeline submission" in the subject line.

DISCUSS

Have each student or group share the event or individual to be added to the timeline. Ask students:

- What was the most surprising thing you discovered while working on this project?
- Has your view of your community changed over the course of this project? Why or why not?
- Compare and contrast your local civil rights movement events with the national movement events on the timeline. Who participated? How did participants exercise their First Amendment rights? What were the results?
- What was the most difficult part of this project? What obstacles did you encounter? How did you overcome them?