

Name:
Date:

‘Civil Rights at 50’ Gallery Guide

The First Amendment protects the right of free expression. Activists fighting for civil rights did this on a daily basis in 1968. Their work produced some of the most iconic images from the decade. Use this gallery guide to learn about the civil rights movement in 1968, the challenges activists faced and the moments their voices were heard.

Visit “1968: Civil Rights at 50,” Level 4

Describe what happened in Orangeburg, S.C., in February 1968. What were students protesting and what happened between them and the police?

The media largely ignored the shooting in 1968. In 1970, two reporters uncovered what important fact about the shooting?

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson created a commission to investigate civil disorder and riots nationwide. The Kerner Commission’s report on race was released the next year. What did it say were the leading causes of racial unrest?

What did the report suggest news organizations did to contribute to the unrest?

How did reporting on the Orangeburg Massacre and the Kerner Commission report show the importance of having your perspective portrayed by the media?

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The Rev. James Lawson said, "At the heart of racism is the idea that a man is not a man." During the sanitation worker strike in Memphis, Tenn., marchers wore signs that said "I Am a Man." How does the photograph of marchers illustrate their desire to be heard and treated as equals?

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4. No African-American photographers were in the press pool covering his funeral. What demand did Coretta Scott King make to get Moneta Sleet Jr. added to the press pool? What prize would he win for his photography that day?

1968 continued to be a challenging year: Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated, division grew over the Vietnam War, and a heated presidential campaign was nearing its conclusion when two U.S. athletes took a stand for human rights at the 1968 Summer Olympics.

Describe the image of Tommie Smith and John Carlos on the medal stand at the Olympics in Mexico City.

How was this protest different than the ones in Orangeburg, Memphis and "Resurrection City"?

Smith said the protest "was a cry for freedom and for human rights. We had to be seen because we couldn't be heard." This gallery shows civil rights activists fighting for change. How did images like this, or the one of Memphis sanitation workers, express the voices of those civil rights activists?
