

**The Little Rock Nine: The Push for Educational
Rights with Government Responsibility**

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How did we choose our topic? The topic that we chose to research was The Little Rock Nine and their fight for educational integration. We understood that the theme of 'rights and responsibilities' encompasses many historical events and we wanted to find one that was not too mainstream but also not completely overlooked. We were torn between the Little Rock Nine and Rosa Parks' civil rebellion but ultimately decided that the Rosa Park topic was too well known. This led to us landing on The Little Rock Nine because we had only briefly covered the topic in our U.S. history class and we knew we wanted to dig more into this historical development.

How did we conduct our research? Our group conducted most of our research online through sources such as the Eisenhower Library and online databases like Britannica. We also listened to an interview with the Nine students involved on YouTube where the protesters were able to have a deep conversation with their former tormentors. Throughout our research, we discovered there were lots of primary sources because seven out of the nine involved are still alive today and many of them starred in different movies, documentaries, and TV shows as well as wrote many books. This along with the variety of secondary sources provided us with many perspectives to work with and analyze.

How did we create our project? After the past two years of participating in the group website category. We decided to continue and build upon the knowledge we have gained throughout our past experiences. We made a schedule for both research and website creation, we planned on finishing all research by the end of January and put together the website throughout February. We also made sure to note down the sources we used and annotated them as we went. This process is how we ended up with the website we have now.

What is our historical argument? Our historical argument is that The Little Rock Nine perfectly represents this year's historical theme of rights and responsibilities. The actual protest where the nine brave students challenged the ideas of the 'separate but equal' ideology is representative of the rights they campaigned for. This event led to the understanding of

government responsibility in their role to hold on to promises and ensure the republic is built upon and enforces its core values of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

How is our topic significant in history? This topic is very significant in the context of civil rights. The purpose of previous acts like the 14th Amendment ensuring colored people citizenship, as well as the Brown V Board of Education was to promise black people equal opportunity, however, these were never enforced. It wasn't until the nine resilient students took action that the American public recognized the need to act urgently. Despite Governor Faubus' attempts to disrupt the process of desegregation, the responsibility of the federal government to protect the people was ultimately recognized.