

Medgar Evers: Igniting a Unified World

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Senior Division Individual Website

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Process Paper

Finding topics related to the National History Day theme, which is “ Rights and Responsibilities in American History,” I wanted to focus on individuals who contributed to the huge impact on racial inequality and social justice during the 1960s in the United States. Also, I found my interest in discovering someone who had not been recognized as other historical figures such as Martin Luther King and Malcolm X were. Eventually, I discovered a new historical figure I did not know before: Medgar Evers. Medgar Evers was the key figure in the civil rights movement in Mississippi and advocated the equal voting rights and desegregation of African American people. His work motivated the African American community, which hugely contributed to the enactment of Civil rights legislation in 1964.

Researching Medgar Evers, I found that Evers’ contributions to racial equality align directly with the theme; his work resulted in and motivated the movement and advancement of the fight for justice. While conducting the research, I used a combination of primary and secondary sources. First, I began with researching background information by gathering scholarly articles and books that provide context on the civil rights movement, the path to civil rights, and the life of Medgar Evers. I then examined the newspaper articles, speeches, and legal documents to gain insight into his activism and the response to his assassination. The *Autobiography of Medgar Evers* and reflection of Myrlie Evers- widow of Medgar Evers- offered clear perspectives on his work and and aftermath of his death. I also used online archives from NAACP, congress, and other articles or videos to find photographs, letters, and interviews or audio resources. By comprehending the resources, I ensured that my research was accurate and well-rounded.

I created my website by organizing my website in chronological order to provide the background information and a deep understanding of the civil rights movement and Medgar Evers to the audience. I used primary sources to have more detailed and effective information for the audience and used secondary sources to add context to my argument and description. The final project underwent several revisions to refine its structure and effectiveness. My historical argument is that Medgar Evers’ activism and assassination catalyzed civil rights legislation and public awareness. His

commitment to ending segregation and securing voting rights challenged racial inequality and injustice, influencing the enactment of Civil rights legislation in 1964 and sparking nationwide activism. Evers' contributions are significant since they highlight his works and sacrifices made in the fight for civil rights. His efforts laid the groundwork for major civil rights legislation and movement in Mississippi. His legacy continues to inspire activists advocating for racial injustice and equality today.