

Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County

Eleanor Fontaine, Waverly Thomasey, Eve Flavin, Josi Hall, Harmony Spinner
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At first, we explored *Brown v. Board of Education* and other civil rights topics. As we researched further, we discovered *Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County*, one of the five cases combined into *Brown v. Board*. We chose this topic because it highlights how students and their community took responsibility by standing up for their right to equal education. It fits this year's National History Day theme, *Rights and Responsibilities*, because it shows how people fought to gain their rights and how their actions helped others gain theirs too.

We conducted our research using a variety of sources. We read books, academic articles, and used trusted websites. We also studied primary sources such as court documents, photographs, newspapers, and personal accounts from the people involved in the case. These sources helped us understand both the legal arguments and the personal struggles behind the fight for equal rights. We used secondary sources that included publications highlighting Moton and came recommended by the Moton Museum. We checked the accuracy of all our sources and gathered information that helped tell the full story.

To create our project, we chose to make a website. First, we collected all of our research and took notes on the most important facts and events. We outlined the story we wanted to tell and decided how to organize it. Then we wrote the content, selected images and quotes, and built the website to be informative and engaging. We also included this process paper to explain how we developed our project and our historical argument.

Our historical argument is that *Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County* shows how ordinary students made it their responsibility to fight their constitutional right to an equal education. By organizing a student-led strike and challenging the unfair conditions of their segregated school, they sparked a legal battle that became part of the landmark *Brown v. Board*

of Education decision. Their actions helped overturn the "separate but equal" doctrine and changed education in America.

This topic is historically significant because it shows how the fight for civil rights depends not just on laws, but on people who are willing to stand up for what's right. The students in Prince Edward County exercised their responsibility to speak out against injustice and helped secure the right to equal education for future generations. Their bravery and determination show how taking responsibility can lead to major changes in society. The case reminds us that rights are not always freely given—they must often be demanded and defended by everyday people.