The Past 50 Years: Achieving Equality

The battle for equal opportunity in America—in education or in other areas—did not end on May 17, 1954. Below is a list of possible research topics on Civil Rights and education issues in the past 50 years that have been influenced by the Brown v. Board decision.

After choosing and researching a topic, you must develop a means of presenting it to your peers and your community. Possible forms of presentation include a poster, a video or audio recording, the development of a web site, an essay, or a creative writing piece. Be sure to consider, among other questions, the following:

In what ways does this issue relate to the ideas that were contested in Brown v. Board? Be sure to consider both legal and cultural/social issues.

How was the issue finally decided? Was it in keeping with Brown or was it a turning away from it? What does this reveal about American culture? If the issue is still being debated, what are the various opinions? What is your opinion?

Other Civil Rights and Education Issues and Events:

• Massive Resistance to School Integration in Virginia, 1956
• The Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1956
• The Integration of Little Rock High School, 1957
• Sit-in at the Greensboro, N.C., Woolworth’s lunch counter, 1960
• Ruby Bridges attends school in New Orleans, La., 1960
• James Meredith attends the University of Mississippi, 1962
• Sit-in in Jackson, Miss., 1963
• Martin Luther King’s march on Washington, D.C., 1963
• The Boston busing crisis, 1974
• Unequal segregation of children in other countries
• School vouchers
• Bilingual/multicultural education
• The problem of resegregation in the past 20 years

Add your ideas to this list. Consider other events, issues, and groups.
Other groups seeking equality:

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