

***Lesson Title* – MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT-
Whose Side Are You On?
From Lorna Gallagher**

Grade - 8

Length of class period – Two 45 minute periods

Inquiry – (What essential question are students answering, what problem are they solving, or what decision are they making?)

Students are learning about the south in the 1950's. They will learn about the Montgomery Bus Boycott and decide which side they would be on.

Objectives (What content and skills do you expect students to learn from this lesson?)

The students will understand what the “Montgomery City Code” states.(Montgomery Advisor)

The students will understand the “Negroes’ Most Urgent Needs” in Montgomery. (Montgomery Advisor)

The students will understand the varying opinions on the boycott.(City Commission Lauded For Bus Boycott Stand – Montgomery Advisor)

The students will develop a better understand the time period by analyzing the readings.

The students will evaluate what should be done regarding the boycott.

Materials (What primary sources or local resources are the basis for this lesson?) – (please attach)

Copies of “Montgomery City Code”, “Negroes’ Most Urgent Needs”, and “City Commission Lauded for Bus Boycott Stand”.

Worksheet for each group to find evidence

Easel Paper

Prompt for day 2

White paper for prompt – day 2

Activities (What will you and your students do during the lesson to promote learning?)

Day 1

1. Put on the Easel, “Montgomery Bus Boycott, Who’s Side Are You On?” and review the past two days of information on Civil Rights.(7 min.)
2. Divide class into three groups(3 min.)
3. Each group will have a document to read and record information on the easel paper using the worksheet information for each document. (10 min.)
4. Groups will then put up their information and a spokesperson will explain their highlights and we will discuss the similarities and differences. (15 min.)
5. Students will be asked to stand up and take a side, Against the Boycott or For the Boycott. They must then give a one word reason for their stance. (5 min.)
6. They will then be told that tomorrow will be an individual writing prompt to persuade others how the boycott should be handled.
7. Copies of each article should be available for each student if they wish to have them since each group only read one article in class.

Day 2

1. Hand out white writing paper.
2. Put the prompt on the easel or hand out to the students on paper. (45 minutes)

How will you assess what student learned during this lesson?

Discussion within the groups and the individual essays responding the writing prompt.

Connecticut Grade Level Expectations-

Standard 1 – Content Knowledge-

1.1 Significant Events and Themes in U.S. History

1.8 The Interactions between Citizens and their government in the making and implementation of laws.

Standard 2 – History/Social Studies Literacy

2.2 Interpret information from a variety of primary and secondary sources.

2.3 Create various forms of written work

Standard 3 – Civic Engagement

3.2 Analyze and evaluate human action in historical and/ or contemporary contexts from alternative points of view

PROMPT FOR DAY 2 – (45 minutes)

YOU ARE ABLE TO TIME TRAVEL BACK TO 1955. YOU ARE A VISITOR IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA WHEN THE BUS BOYCOTT IS HAPPENING. PERSUADE THE CITY COMMISSION ON HOW THEY SHOULD HANDLE THIS BOYCOTT. GIVE FACTS FROM THE PRIMARY SOURCE DOCUMENTS THAT WE USED.

Montgomery City Code

Sec. 10. Separation of races—Required.

Every person operating a bus line in the city shall provide equal, but separate, accommodations for white people and negroes on his buses, by requiring the employees in charge thereof to assign passengers seats on the vehicles under their charge in such a manner as to separate the white people from the negroes, where there are both white and negroes on the same car; provided, however, that negro nurses having in charge white children or sick or infirm white persons, may be assigned seats among white people.

Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the operators of such bus lines from separating the races by means of separate vehicles if they see fit. (Code 1938, 603,606)

Sec. 11. Same—Powers of persons in charge of vehicle; passengers to obey directions.

Any employee in charge of a bus operated in the city shall have the powers of a police officer of the city while in actual charge of any bus, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the preceding section, and it shall be unlawful for any passenger to refuse or fail to take a seat among those assigned to the race to which he belongs, at the request of any such employee in charge, if there is a such a seat vacant. (Code 1938, 604)

Sec. 12. Failure to carry passengers.

It shall be unlawful for any person operating a bus line in the city to refuse, without sufficient excuse, to carry any passenger; provided, that no driver of a bus shall be required to carry any passenger who is intoxicated or disorderly, or who is afflicted with any contagious or infectious disease, or who refuses to pay in advance the fare required, or who for any other reason deemed satisfactory by the recorder should be excluded. (Code 1938, 699)

Sec. 13. Smoking.

It shall be unlawful for any person to smoke a cigar, pipe or cigarette upon any bus in the city; provided, however, that smoking may be permitted in vehicles provided for that purpose and set apart therefore by the person operating the bus line. (Code 1938, 443)

Sec. 14. Failure to pay fare.

It shall be unlawful for any person, with the intent to defraud the operator of a bus line, to ride or attempt to ride upon any bus in the city without the payment of the fare charged for such service. (Code 1938, 600)

By Joe Jones | Published Date: January 24, 1956

CITY COMMISSION LAUDED FOR BUS BOYCOTT STAND

City Commission said today they were swamped with "hundreds" of messages congratulating them on the boycott stand taken late yesterday.

And the tenor of the calls indicate that retaliatory measures are being considered against Negro employees participating in the seven-week-old boycott.

Commissioner Frank Parks said he had received "dozens of calls from businessmen" who said they were going to "lay off Negro employees who are being used as NAACP instruments in this boycott."

Mayor W. A. Gayle, who said he had spent "the entire morning" receiving congratulatory messages, stated that many of his callers expressed the same sentiment.

The other member of the Commission, Clyde Sellers, reported the same response.

"The innocent Negroes should wake up," Parks said. They don't know what they are doing, but I'm afraid they're going to find out. The white people have been their friends, and still want to be, but we can't sit here and watch them destroy our transportation system.

"There is no need for us to straddle the fence any longer, I am taking a stand and so are the other commissioners," he said.

Parks was referring to Mayor Gayle's statement last night that the City Commission will make no further attempts to end the boycott because Negro leaders are "after the destruction of our social fabric."

"We have pussyfooted around on this boycott long enough," the mayor charged. He said, "The vast majority of whites in Montgomery don't care whether a Negro ever rides a bus again."

At the same time, it was disclosed that Mayor Gayle and the other two members of the City Commission have joined the Montgomery Citizens Council within the past several days. The council is pledged to preserve racial segregation by legal means.

ALL COMMISSIONERS JOIN

Police Commissioner Clyde Seller said he joined the MCC several days ago and Mayor Gayle and Commissioner Frank Parks have since followed suit.

The mayor said, "There seems to be a belief on the part of Negroes that they have the people hemmed up in a corner and they hare not going to give an inch..."

"We have held meeting with the Negroes at which proposals were made that would have been accepted by any fair-minded group," he added.

Mayor Gayle announced his stand after a Negro boycott leader, Rev. M. L. King, charged that the City Commission had "Hoodwinked" three other Negro pastors into attending a meeting last Saturday and then issued a misleading statement indicating a compromise plan for ending the boycott had been adopted "by all present."

Rev. King said, the Negro ministers did not agree to any compromise proposal and had been duped into attending the meeting because they thought an insurance plan for Negroes was to be discussed.

The bus boycott by Negroes has been in effect here since Dec. 5, in protest to segregated seating arrangements required by city and state laws. The protest movement was touched off by the \$14 fine given Mrs. Rosa Parks, a Negro seamstress who refused to move to the rear of a bus.

Boycott leaders, many of them ministers, have organized a pickup system at many points throughout Montgomery. They say as many as 200 automobiles are assigned each day to transport Negroes to and from work so they won't be forced to ride the city buses.

They have demanded that seats on buses be assigned on a "first come, first served" basis. Negroes would take seats from the rear toward the front but would not be required to stand if any seats are available.

The compromise plan announced by the City Commission Saturday would reserve 10 seats at the front for whites and 10 seats at the back for Negroes. Special buses would be used during rush hours to transport Negroes only along predominantly Negro routes.

Rev. King said the offer was not satisfactory. The boycott will continue, he added, "until our proposals are given sympathetic treatment."

Mayor Gayle had this to say about that remark:

"If the Negro leaders mean what I think they mean by sympathetic treatment, then there is no likelihood of an end to the boycott."

As for "hoodwinking" the ministers who attended the Saturday meeting, the mayor replied:

"The Negro leaders have proven they will say one thing to a white man and another thing to a Negro."

"When and if the Negro people desire to end the boycott, my door is open to them," the mayor concluded. "But until they are ready to end it, there will be no more discussions." Yesterday the bus company resumed full service along three routes where operations had been stopped or curtailed, the company said "numerous" requests had been made over the past weekend for the resumption of service.

AP Articles

_ OVERVIEW

_ INDICTMENTS ANTICIPATED BY BUS BOYCOTT LEADER

_ BOYCOTT ISSUE BEING AIRED BY GRAND JURY

_ NEGRO DEMO WANTS CIVIL RIGHTS

_ 50 NEGRO PASTORS PROTEST 'NATIONAL PRAYER DAY' IDEA

_ PRESIDENT GETS QUESTION ON MONTGOMERY TRIALS

_ SCATTERED U.S. POINTS OBSERVE 'DAY OF PRAYER'

_ NATIONAL CITY FIRM DROPS SEGREGATION ON ALL BUS LINES

_ CITY THREATENS ARRESTS HERE TO ENFORCE BUS SEGREGATION

_ ANGRY CITY BUS DRIVER THREATENS AP STAFFER

_ 3-JUDGE PANEL TO HEAR SEGREGATION CHALLENGE HERE

_ GRAY'S DRAFT STATUS IS UP FOR DECISION

_ NAACP LAWYERS MEET TODAY TO MAP REPLY TO INJUNCTION

_ NAACP PLANS COURT ACTION FOR REVERSAL OF INJUNCTION

_ NEGROES FORM NEW GROUP REPLACING BANNED NAACP

_ NEGRO LEADERS ADVISE CAUTION IN BUS BOYCOTTS

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MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT – 1955

EVERYTHING GOES ON THE EASEL PAPER. IF YOU ARE READING.....

MONTGOMERY CITY CODE

READ SECTIONS 10-14 AND LIST THE HIGHLIGHTS OF EACH SECTION.

NEGROES' MOST URGENT NEEDS

LIST UNDER THE 8 AREAS WHAT THEY FELT WAS MOST URGENT.

CITY COMMISSION LAUDED FOR BUS BOYCOTT STAND

WHAT IS THE CITY COMMISSION STAND ON THE BOYCOTT?
WHY SI THE CITY COMMISSION PRAISED FOR THEIR STAND?