

## Teaching with Primary Sources Lesson Outline

**Grade Level:** High School (9-10)

**Standard(s) or Objectives:** CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.3: Analyze in detail a series of events described in a text; determine whether earlier events caused later ones or simply preceded them.  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.8: Assess the extent to which the reasoning and evidence in a text support the author's claims.

### Library of Congress or Morris Special Collections Resources:

Mr. Roy Wilkins  
20 West 40th Street  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wilkins:

Conditions are yet pretty rough in the week, Mimie Jean's mother, Mrs. W. at the school with her for a conference assistant principals. Subject of core measures, and the withdrawal of Mimie Christmas program." The principal has decided to have the program that "W"

**Daisy Bates to NAACP Executive Secretary Roy Wilkins, 1957.**

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/naACP/the-civil-rights-era.html>

Specific page used:

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/naACP/the-civil-rights-era.html#obj16>

### Topic Background:

Daisy Bates, publisher of The Arkansas State Press and president of the Arkansas State Conference of NAACP Branches, led the NAACP's campaign to desegregate the public schools in Little Rock, Arkansas. Thurgood Marshall served as chief counsel. The school board agreed to begin the process with Central High School, approving the admission of nine black teenagers. The decision outraged many white citizens, including Arkansas governor Orval Faubus, who ordered the Arkansas National Guard to surround Central High School. When the black students tried repeatedly to enter, they were turned away by the guardsmen and an angry white mob. President Eisenhower sent federal troops to Little Rock to force Governor Faubus to uphold the Supreme Court's ruling and ensure the protection of black students. On September 25, 1957, federal troops safely escorted the students into Central High School.

Excerpted from: <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/naACP/the-civil-rights-era.html#obj16>

### Source(s) Used:

The source used in this assessment includes excerpts from Daisy Bates' letter to Roy Wilkins on December 17, 1957, concerning treatment of the Little Rock Nine. The letter gives numerous examples of ill treatment towards the African American students at Little Rock Central High School, and shows that white administrators continued to make success for these students very difficult.

### Answer Key:

Question 1: B

Question 2: C

## Daisy Bates to NAACP Executive Secretary Roy Wilkins, 1957. [Excerpt]

Dear Mr. Wilkins:

Conditions are yet pretty rough in the school for the children. Last week, Minnie Jean's mother, Mrs. W.B. Brown, asked me to go over to the school with her for a conference with the principal, and the two assistant principals. Subject of conference: "Firmer disciplinary measures, and the withdrawal of Minnie Jean from the glee club's Christmas program." The principal had informed Minnie Jean in withdrawing her from the program that "When it is definitely decided that Negroes will go to school here with the whites, and the troops are removed, then you will be able to participate in all activities." We strongly challenged this statement, which he denied making in that fashion.

We also pointed out that the treatment of the children had been getting steadily worse for the last two weeks in the form of kicking, spitting, and general abuse. As a result of our visit, stronger measures are being taken against the white students who are guilty of committing these offenses. For instance, a boy had been suspended for two weeks, flunked both six-weeks tests, and on his return to school, the first day he knocked Gloria Ray into her locker. As a result of our visit, he was given an indefinite suspension.

The superintendent of schools also requested a conference the same afternoon. Clarence and I went down and spent about two hours. Here, again we pointed out that a three-day suspension given Hugh Williams for a sneak attack perpetrated on one of the Negro boys which knocked him out, and required a doctor's attention, was not sufficient punishment. We also informed him that our investigation revealed that there were many pupils willing to help if given the opportunity, and that President Eisenhower was very much concerned about the Little Rock crisis. He has stated his willingness to come down and address the student body if invited by student leaders of the school. This information was passed on to the principals of the school, but we have not been assured that leadership would be given to children in the school who are willing to organize for law and order. However, we have not abandoned the idea. Last Friday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, I was asked to call Washington and see if we could get FBI men placed in the school December 16-18.

### Questions:

- 1) How do the statements underlined in paragraphs 1 and 3 relate to each other? (CCSS-RH9-10.3)
  - a. President Eisenhower continued to monitor the situation at Little Rock High because school officials continued to disobey the law and sought to block African American students from attending the school.
  - b. The presence of African American students at Little Rock High continued to be a subject of national attention as school officials continued to question the permanency of black students within their school.
  - c. School officials were waiting on the President to decide whether or not African American students would be allowed to continue their education at Little Rock High.
  - d. School officials were waiting on the troops to be removed in order to remove African American students from Little Rock High.
  
- 2) Read this sentence from the letter: "Conditions are yet pretty rough in the school for the children." Which piece of evidence from the article best supports this claim? (CCSS-RH9-10.8)
  - a. "Last week, Minnie Jean's mother, Mrs. W.B. Brown, asked me to go over to the school with her for a conference with the principal, and the two assistant principals."
  - b. "As a result of our visit, stronger measures are being taken against the white students who are guilty of committing these offenses."
  - c. "Here, again we pointed out that a three-day suspension given Hugh Williams for a sneak attack perpetrated on one of the Negro boys which knocked him out, and required a doctor's attention, was not sufficient punishment."