My Civil Rights Movement Project! =)

By: Daniel Pinto
To what degree has the Civil Rights Movement contributed to making the United States Society more equal and just?

Introductory Letter

This question is important because the Civil Rights Movement helped lead us into the equal and free country that we are now. This Era helped unite the United States to a more diverse and unified country. Many African Americans in the United States did not have the same opportunities as the whites. Because of this there were many non-violent & violent protests that fought to end segregation. Many Americans worked tirelessly for various organizations dedicated to achieving equal rights mainly in the South. Not only did this help to voice their feelings towards racial discrimination but also helped to lead them into a new, equal and just society. The Civil Rights Movement was important step in breaking down segregation and giving people a feeling of equality.

In this website you will learn how the Civil Rights Movement has changed the United States Society to become desegregated and to achieve racial equality for all.
In the U.S there was racial discrimination against African Americans. There were many non-violent protest and civil disobedience that caused crisis situations between activists and government authorities.

One form of protest is a boycott, just like the Montgomery Bus Boycott that happened in Alabama between 1955 and 1956. It intended to stop racial segregation on public transit. It began as a year-long protest of city buses that was first organized by the Women's Political Council as a one-day boycott. Protestors spent 381 days taking taxis, carpooling, and walking the hostile streets of Montgomery. The Montgomery Bus Boycott reverberated throughout the U.S and stimulated the Civil Rights Movement. This gave the Civil Rights Movement one of their first victories, a victory of an equal opportunity to sit and ride freely like any other American. "The best way to solve any problem is to remove its cause." Not an easy problem to fix as it took 381 days to be successful (Martin Luther King Jr).

The Nashville sit-ins lasted from February 13 to May 10, 1960, another one of their non-violent direct actions to end racial segregation. The sit-ins took place at lunch counters in downtown Nashville. They were coordinated by the Nashville Student Movement and the Nashville Christian Leadership Council. "It was only after they were arrested and it hit the news ... that's when it became a unified effort on campus." The members of the foundation were among the 14 Tennessee A&I students who went on to join the 1961 Freedom Rides, aimed at desegregating bus waiting rooms in the Deep South. Even though they were often verbally or physically attacked they still did not retaliate in violence what so ever. Many of those who participated in the Nashville sit-ins became powerful important leaders of the Civil Rights Movement that continued to fight for the equal right of African Americans and unite everyone as a whole.

A. Phillip Randolph & Bayard Rustin planned together a second march that took place on August 28, 1963. It was an effort of all of the main civil rights organizations, other liberal organizations and the progressive wing of the labor movement. The march had many goals that they wanted to accomplish. Such as decent housing, meaningful civil rights laws, a massive federal works program, full and fair employment and the right to vote. Around 200,000 to 300,000 people attended in front of the Lincoln Memorial where Martin Luther King Jr. made his "I had a dream" speech. 80% of the March population was African Americans and the rest were whites and minorities. It helped pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the National Voting Act of 1965. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 forbade discrimination on the basis of sex as well as race in hiring, promoting, and firing. The National Voting Act of 1965 outlawed discriminatory voting practices in the United States. The march was an important part of the expanding Civil Rights Movement.

One of the main issues today is the immigration issue. Today’s immigration debate has many similar and differences compared to Civil Rights issue back in the Civil Rights Era. They both wanted to fight against racial discrimination for their own race. They wanted their equal rights not “Separate but Equal.” They are different because in the Civil Rights Era they were fighting to desegregate public places in the U.S and the immigration issue is fighting to give everyone equal rights to live in the U.S. In both aspects they are trying to create the same opportunities that everyone else is
The Case of Emmett Till

Emmett Till was born on July 25, 1941. He was a 14 year old African American boy from Chicago, Illinois when a terrible and unjust incident happened. On August 28, 1955, while Emmett Till was visiting relatives in Mississippi. He simply went to store with his cousins and whistled at a white lady. As a result of this he was kidnapped, beaten, shot and murdered. His body was so mutilated that it was nearly unrecognizable. Both the suspects of the murder eventually confessed to the murder but never accountable for the crime. The murder of Emmett Till was the first media event of the Civil Rights Movement. It demonstrated the horrors of racism in an event circulated throughout America and around the world. This event became a major force in the advancement of the Civil Rights Movement. Some would even say it was catalyst. When it came to the funeral, Emmett Till’s mother chose to make it an open casket funeral because she wanted to show the world what they did to her boy. She wanted to make a change and to stop the lynching and discrimination.

The Mother of the Civil Rights Movement

Mrs. Parks was born Rosa Louise McCauley, February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama. Rosa Louise Parks was nationally recognized as the "mother of the modern day civil rights movement" in America. By not giving up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama bus, December 1, 1955, it made Rosa Parks start a protest that was felt throughout the United States. Her quiet, courageous act changed America and redirected the course of history. Thousands of courageous people joined the protest to demand equal rights for all people. After the arrest of Rosa Parks, black people of Montgomery and sympathizers of other races organized and promoted a boycott of the city bus line that lasted 381 days. This eventually led to the 1956 Supreme Court ruling declaring segregation illegal on public buses. Rosa Parks inspired a generation to fight for civil rights.
*Alternative Views*

During the Civil Rights Movement, there were many people who did not want an equal and just society. They opposed the Civil Rights Movement who tried to make the United States a more unified society. At that Era it was mostly the whites who did not agree with the Civil Rights Movement. They already felt superior and did not want to share it with any other race. They preferred that our nation remained as two societies; one black society and the other a white society. Most whites believed in “Separate but equal” which did not give the blacks the rights they wanted.
**Top Ten Events**

1. Lunch Counter Sit ins. April 3, 1963. 30 were arrested for marching without permit. 50 more later on got arrested 9 days later.

2. Washington March, August 1963. 250,000 people gathered for the march. It was the largest political gathering. Included 60,000 whites as well.

3. Protesting unfair bus laws, December 5, 1955. Blacks had to give up their seat for whites at any cause. That caused there to be a buss boycott. 90% of the blacks who rode the bus honored the boycott.

4. Civil Rights Organization, 1942. They challenged discrimination by doing non violent actions. They were pounded by a group of students.

5. Sit in, 1960. Four students sat in the drug store. They sat in the store the whole day and refused service.


8. Watts Riot, August 1969. By the 1960’s 70% of African American lived in large cities. A charge of police brutality of six days. 34 dead, 900 injured and nearly 4,000 arrested. Rioters burned and looted 45 million dollars of property damage. 14,000 National Guard.

9. Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg board of education, 1974. Parents feared safety of children buses into unfamiliar neighborhoods. This case raised the question of whether de facto segregation caused by housing patterns was constitutional.

10. Desegregation of the Armed Forces, July 26, 1948. Isaac Woodard was threatened for taking too much time in colored bathroom. He got arrested and badly beaten up. He was permanently blinded.
"I want to be the white man’s brother, not his brother-in-law."

**Concluding Article**

The Civil Rights Movement was a part of the past that can never be forgotten. Because of the Civil Rights Movement is the reason why the way we are now; an equal and just society. It fought to give African Americans the same citizenship rights that whites took for granted. To fight for your rights, end segregation and discrimination in their community is not an easy victory. It took a great amount of bravery and courage. But hard work always pays off. The Civil Rights Movement caused better changes for the American life.

The Civil Rights Movement was important step in breaking down segregation and giving people a feeling of equality. If it was not for the Civil Rights Movement I believe our society will still be going through racial segregation.
www.mahalo.com/emmett-till Information on Emmett Till
This website was not as helpful as I thought it would be. It told me the basic information of him but did not show the reason why he was murdered. It was biased because it is a website that I haven't heard of and could of gotten their information from other sites.

Now this site was way more useful than the other Emmett Till site. This one is way longer with much more information. But yet again this website is bias because its similar information of the other websites about Emmett Till.

http://www.rosaparks.org/bio.html
This Website gave me most of the information I needed to know about Rosa Parks to do my second profile. Just like the previous websites this site is biased by having most of the same information as the other biographies of Rosa Parks.

http://www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/aaohtml/exhibit/aopart9b.html
This website has two parts to it. I thought this site was very useful and trusted because it is a .gov website. It had information that I used bout the bus boycott, Washington March and the Lunch Sit Ins. This site is biased by having several different topics on the website but seems like they only put the main points of them.

http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/civil-rights-act/
I used this website to understand the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Civil Rights Movement helped pass this very important law. It is a law that all websites should have the same definition making this website biased. But can be trusted because it is a .gov site too.