U.S. HISTORY · 11TH GRADE · STUDENT PACKET

Walking Into History: Little Rock, 1957

Name: Date: Period:

Today's goal: I can explain why federal troops were needed to enforce *Brown v. Board* in Little Rock, using two primary sources.

WARM-UP · LOOK CLOSELY



What do you notice?

What questions does this raise?

Part 1: From "separate but equal" to Little Rock

As we walk the timeline, fill in what the law said and what was really happening.

Year and event	What the LAW said	What happened in REALITY
1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson*		
1954 *Brown v. Board*		
1957 Little Rock Central High		

Words we need today

Break the word, find the meaning.

se · greg · ation

se- = "apart" + greg = "group" → separating people into groups by race

de · segregation

de- = "undo" → ending segregation, so all students attend the same schools

un · constitution · al

un- = "not" → not allowed by the U.S. Constitution

Two leaders, two claims

Read both excerpts with your partner. Underline each leader's main reason for acting. The highlighted lines are the most important.



Source A

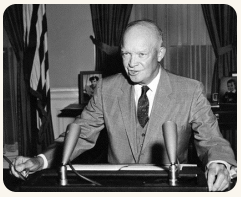
Gov. Orval E. Faubus

Televised address to Arkansas
Sept. 2, 1957, the night before school opened

"Units of the National Guard have been, or are now being mobilized with the mission to maintain or restore the peace ... and to protect the lives and property of citizens. They will act not as segregationists or integrationists, but as soldiers called to active duty to carry out their assigned tasks.

But I must state here in all sincerity, that it is my opinion, yes, even a conviction, that it will not be possible to restore or to maintain order and protect the lives and property of the citizens if forcible integration is carried out tomorrow in the schools of this community."

mobilized: called up for duty · **forcible:** done by force · **conviction:** a strong belief



Source B

Pres. Dwight D. Eisenhower

Radio and TV address to the nation
Sept. 24, 1957, after Executive Order 10730

"In that city, under the leadership of demagogic extremists, disorderly mobs have deliberately prevented the carrying out of proper orders from a Federal Court. Local authorities have not eliminated that violent opposition ...

The very basis of our individual rights and freedoms rests upon the certainty that the President and the Executive Branch of Government will support and insure the carrying out of the decisions of the Federal Courts ...

Whenever normal agencies prove inadequate to the task and it becomes necessary for the Executive Branch of the Federal Government to use its powers and authority to uphold Federal Courts, the President's responsibility is inescapable."

demagogic: stirring up people's fears for power · **inadequate:** not enough · **inescapable:** cannot be avoided

Part 3: Claim → Evidence → Effect

	Source A: Faubus	Source B: Eisenhower
Claim	*He claims that _____.*	*He claims that _____.*
Evidence	*He says, "_____."*	*He says, "_____."*
Effect	*Because of this, _____.*	*Because of this, _____.*

PART 4 · PREPARE FOR DISCUSSION

Who held the most responsibility?

1. Sourcing: How does the date of each speech (Sept. 2 vs. Sept. 24) help explain why the two leaders made such different arguments?

2. Who held the most responsibility for what happened in Little Rock? Circle one.

The Governor | The President | The courts | The crowd

I think _____ held the most responsibility because Source ___ says, "_____."

Discussion rule: name your source before you speak.

✂ CUT HERE · EXIT TICKET

Name: Period:

Exit ticket · 3-2-1

3 **obstacles to school desegregation**

2 **actions the federal government took**

1 **question you still have**

Sources: Faubus address, Sept. 2, 1957 (Southern School News, Oct. 1957); Eisenhower address, Sept. 24, 1957 (Eisenhower Presidential Library). Photo: Will Counts.