

The Impact of Racial Discrimination on Black American Lives in the Jim Crow Era (1944 – 1960)

Center for Legislative Archives

Worksheet 1: Document Analysis

Group Members: _____
Station _____; Document _____

1. Writer of the document:
2. Date:
3. Topic:
4. If a letter or other correspondence, to whom is it addressed?
5. What action or condition does the document primarily concern?
6. What response does the writer seek?
7. Does this document reflect an interest in removing barriers to equality or reinforcing barriers? Why?
8. What does the background information add to your understanding of this document?
9. How do the actions called for or opinions expressed in this document illustrate how Jim Crow, a system of laws and practices set in place to maintain white supremacy, limited the freedom of African Americans?
10. When read together, what insight into the power of individuals and institutions to maintain or put an end to racial injustice do the documents studied at this station support?

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Worksheet 2: Reflection Questions

1. Overall, to what extent do the documents studied in this lesson show the lives of African Americans being impacted by Jim Crow laws and practices?
2. Which of the documents you studied in this lesson gave you the clearest image of limits on the freedom of African Americans?
3. Which document most strongly suggested a practice likely to perpetuate racial separation in American society?
4. Although the Civil Rights Act of 1964 legally banned racial segregation in many aspects of American life, did any of these documents from an earlier time reflect social or cultural practices that would require more than an act of legislation to eradicate?



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