

Teacher: Cynthia Clark

Grade Level: 11<sup>th</sup>

Subject: US History

Lesson Topic: Racism

Chapter 24 pp. 744-761

**TEKS: 4D,6A, 7D, 7F, 8B**

**Overview:** Racism functions as a distant hidden abstraction to many students. Racism has existed throughout human history. It may be defined as the hatred of one person by another or the belief that another person is less than human because of skin color. One of the principles of the American government is that we are all equal under the law. The purpose of this lesson is to have a conversation on racial relationships in America using the Emmett Till Case.

**Objectives:**

1. Analyze the Emmett Till Case and discuss what role racism played in the "not" guilty verdict.
2. Analyze local/state community for changes in black. White relationships post WW II,
3. Describe the lasting effects that the Emmett Till case had on American society.

**Procedure:**

1. Students will define racism  
Sample Questions:
  - a. Do you believe racism still exist today?
  - b. Do you believe that in general people are more racist today than, let's say 30 years ago?
  - c. Do you believe that one day racism will not exist in America?
2. Students will read the "Emmett Till" case but the names of the key character will be changed and there will be no mention or description of race. The students will not know the characters ethnic backgrounds.

3. Students will discuss the case and the not guilty verdict.  
Sample Questions:  
Who: Identify the key figures in the case.  
What: Describe the actions of the key figures. Include details from the articles.  
When: Describe when the deed(s) or action(s) took place.  
Why: Describe why, according to the journalist, the event(s) took place.  
How: Describe how the event(s) unfolded, paying careful attention to the sequence of events.  
Summary: Provide a summary statement describing the event(s)
4. Students will view a PBS Film on the Emmett Till case
5. Discuss what role that racism played in the “Not” guilty verdict.
6. Discuss how the Emmett Till Case jump started the Civil Rights Movement
7. Students will view Mavis Staples’s Music video “We’ll Never Turn Back”

### **Materials/Resources**

PBS Emmett Till /Civil Rights Video

Mavis Staples We’ll Never Turn Back Video

Text Book

Trail Transcript [www.law.umkc.edu](http://www.law.umkc.edu)

The True Story of Emmett Till

### **Evaluation:**

Teach Observation

Short Answers Discussion Questions

Exam