

Possible Student Research Paper Topics Connected to NEH Delta State University “Most Southern Place on Earth” Workshop

All topics must be connected in some way to southern culture

Music

Who is the father of the blues?
Gospel music vs. blues
Blues vs. jazz
Blues as the “devil’s music”
Influence of BB King
BB King Museum
Charlie Patton and the Dockery
Blues and rock n roll
Blues markers from MS Blues Commission
Compare blues artists
Compare blues artist with artist from another genre

Mississippi Delta

Geography shaping the culture
Music artists
Historical Preservation
Impact of 1927 Flood
1927 Flood vs. Katrina
Percy family legacy
Literature and poetry
Race: Has MS made the most progress of southern
Cotton as “king”
Religious patterns
Immigration patterns
Chinese immigrants in delta
Jewish immigrants in delta
Role of the River
Sharecropping
Struggles with education
Struggles with poverty
Role of tourism
Economic changes
Formation of Mt. Bayou
Medical care at Mt. Bayou

Culture

Stereotypes

Military tradition
West Point
Role of “Confederacy”
Soul Food
Religion in the South
Racism- compare states
Defacto segregation
Justice system

Civil Rights

Supreme Court cases
Organizations: Too many?
Fannie Lou Hamer and Voting Rights
Voting Rights and Participation
Connection with Vietnam War
Role of the Media
Connection to wars
Freedom Riders: Perception in North vs. South
Connection to communism and hysteria
Great Migration
MS Freedom Party
Mississippi vs Alabama
Career of James O. Eastland
MS Colleges

Emmett Till Case

Caused by Brown v Board of Education
Political, Social and Economic causes
Violations of social norms
Inspiration of Rosa Parks?
Catalyst to Civil Rights Movement (compared to Rosa Parks)
Impact on African Americans (fear, motivation)
Role of media
Role of white Citizen’s Council
Reinvestigation
Till Case Today
Comparison to To Kill a Mockingbird