

Most Southern Place on Earth –Session 2

Lesson Plan – David Rider, Bellows Free Academy, St. Albans, VT

Lesson Title: “**Now, What Was That Dream, Exactly?**”

Overview: Students interpret two primary documents from 1963, one famous, one most likely unknown, and draw comparisons between the two to gain a deeper understanding of the social, political, and economic goals of the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, and the relationship between the leadership and the participants of the Civil Rights movement.

Activities: Students are assigned the two documents to read the day before the lesson

1. “To the White Citizens of Cleveland, Mississippi” by [Dianna and James Bevel](#) May 30, 1963
2. “I Have a Dream” by Martin Luther King, Jr. August 28th, 1963

Students use worksheets to identify the social, political, and economic themes of both documents.

Working in small groups, student compare analysis sheets to further develop their analysis of both, then answer the following questions to share in a class discussion.

1. What social themes are similar in both documents?
2. What political themes are similar in both documents?
3. What economic themes are similar in both documents?
4. What specific evidence in both documents reference examples of the deferral of the “American Dream” to African Americans?
5. How do both use scripture and/or religious themes to make their points?

Writing Prompt: To what extent did the leadership of the Civil Rights movement reflect the beliefs of many of the African American participants in the movement? In your view, did the leadership or the participants in the movement play a great role in achieving the goals of the movement?

“To the Citizens of Cleveland”

Economic Themes	Political Themes	Social Themes

“I Have A Dream”

Economic Themes	Political Themes	Social Themes

