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U.S. History, 1877-Present

In my 1877-Present U.S. History class, a WWII oral history project is my major writing /term paper assignment. My experience with the “American Landmarks of American Democracy: From Freedom Summer to the Memphis Sanitation Workers' Strike” has provided me with enough insight to develop an oral history project based on the Great Migration from the South to Michigan.

My home of Port Huron, Michigan does not have a very large African-American population (only 5% of population). I will contact some local ministers of black congregations to get a list of possible interviewees. I also need to develop a list of possible questions to help students conduct relevant interviews. Our oral history workshops have been of great assistance.

This landmarks conference has provided me with some completely new insights into the civil rights movement, next year I will emphasize organizing, SNCC, and seemingly ordinary people who did extraordinary things to change our nation, I will still discuss MLK, sit-ins, and freedom rides, but I will place them in the context of SNCC organizing labor/civil rights organizing, mechanized cotton harvesters, consequences for black voting and registration, etc.

Background

This conference has provided me with the knowledge to lead a meaningful discussion about our ideas and beliefs regarding equality and freedom. Also, I need a CD of freedom songs for my survey class. I'll try to bring in African-Americans who had lived in the south to tell their stories and answer questions.