



Say It Plain: Student Exercises

Segment 1: Tracing the Impact of African American Speechmaking

Tracing the impact of African American speechmaking: preaching, telling jokes and bearing witness to abuse, discrimination and brutality. Segment features Martin Luther King, Jr., comedian Dick Gregory, activist Fannie Lou Hamer, and historian James Horton. Also traces some of the earliest known recordings of African Americans, including the influential leaders Booker T. Washington and Marcus Garvey.

Reading Comprehension

Read the testimony by [*Fannie Lou Hamer: Testimony Before the Credentials Committee, Democratic National Convention*](#)

Answer the following questions:

1. What crucial piece of information did Fannie Lou Hamer learn at the age of 44?
2. What consequences did Hamer face in 1962 when she tried to register for vote?
3. What were the two central goals of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP), of which Hamer was an active member in 1964?
4. What kind of treatment did Hamer and her colleagues receive when they were thrown in jail in 1963?
5. After she suffered humiliation in a Mississippi jail, what did Hamer do?

Key Terms and Topics

Terms

From [*Fannie Lou Hamer's "Testimony Before the Credentials Committee, Democratic National Convention"*](#)

- * Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
- * Sharecroppers
- * Ku Klux Klan (KKK)
- * Impromptu
- * Literacy test
- * Blackjack
- * Medgar Evers