



Harding

A C A D E M Y

Summer Assignment

African American history is vital to all Americans, regardless of race. This coming year, we will not only examine the history and culture of African Americans, but also how these things connect to Americans at large, determining what it means to be American. This summer, you are required to complete the attached assignment. It is an oral history interview. You must conduct these interviews using the attached questionnaire with **three different people** (so you will complete the attached forms 3 times). These people must have been over ten years of age in 1970. They must have been living in the city of Memphis. You will be interviewing them about school busing and school desegregation in Memphis, so it will be important for them to remember something about those things. You must choose people that you think will bring different perspectives from each other. You may not choose someone who someone else in our class has interviewed. All Memphians, especially Harding students, are especially involved in this story. It is part of who we are, and it is important to investigate it from multiple angles. We will begin utilizing these interviews for a project the first week of school, so three legible, transcribed interviews must be turned in, even if it is not on the assigned paper. If you have any questions about the assignment over the summer, email us. Good luck!

Dr. Frizzell and Ms. Holmes

Students, fill out the following questionnaire either during or after your interview. (If you fill it out after, I recommend recording the interview so you can copy what they said. As you're interviewing, remember that it is better to have too much information rather than too little. Therefore, on all of these questions you should be able to get at least a small paragraph's worth of information. Ask follow up questions as you are curious.

Student Name:

Interviewee Name:

Age in 1970:

What part of Memphis did you live in? How would you describe yourself and your family?

Describe your neighborhood? What was life like in the 1970s?

Where did you work or go to school? What was it like? How was it different from today?

What do you remember about school busing? Did you support it? Why or why not? What were your concerns or fears?

Were you or your children bused? If so, from where to where?

Did you participate in any protests or rallies connected to busing or school desegregation?

Do you think school busing worked?

Did life change at all during school busing? Did people act different or view race problems differently? Do you think people's attitudes changed?

Is there anything else about that time in your life that we haven't discussed that you'd like to add?