

Debate on Montgomery Bus Boycott Perspectives

Introduction

In this activity, you will explore different perspectives on the Montgomery Bus Boycott by participating in a group debate. Each group member will take on a specific role and share their viewpoint. This will help you understand the various opinions and emotions involved in this historic event.

Roles

Each group will have the following roles:

- **Rosa Parks:**

The woman who refused to give up her seat and sparked the boycott.

- **Bus Driver:**

The person who asked Rosa Parks to move.

- **Fellow Passenger:**

A passenger on the bus who witnessed the event.

- **Community Leader:**

A leader in the African American community who supported the boycott.

- **City Official:**

A government official who had to respond to the boycott.

Instructions

Follow these steps to complete the activity:

- Read the background information provided in your lesson materials about Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott.
- Discuss with your group and assign roles to each member.
- Use the questions below to guide your discussion and prepare your arguments.
- Debate your perspectives with your group, making sure everyone has a chance to speak.

- After the debate, come together as a class to share what you learned from each perspective.

Guiding Questions

Use these questions to help you think about your role and prepare your arguments:

- **Rosa Parks:**

Why did you refuse to give up your seat? How did you feel at that moment?

- **Bus Driver:**

Why did you ask Rosa Parks to move? What were your thoughts when she refused?

- **Fellow Passenger:**

What did you see and hear on the bus? How did you feel about Rosa Parks' actions?

- **Community Leader:**

Why did you support the boycott? How did you mobilize the community?

- **City Official:**

What challenges did the boycott present to the city? How did you respond to the demands of the protesters?

Reflection

After the debate, take a few minutes to write down your thoughts. Consider the following questions:

- What did you learn from hearing different perspectives?
- How do you think the boycott impacted the people involved?
- How can you relate Rosa Parks' courage to your own life?

Share your reflections with your group and be ready to discuss them with the class.

Conclusion

This activity helps you understand the complexity of historical events by exploring different viewpoints. By debating these perspectives, you gain a deeper appreciation for the courage and determination of those involved in the Montgomery Bus Boycott.