

Colvin vs. Parks

In Montgomery, many African-Americans likely refused to change their seats for a white person on the bus when they were told to. Only three women however were arrested for refusing to change their seats. Local activists working in the Montgomery Improvement Association knew that they wanted to use one of these arrests as a “catalyst” (or a spark) for a bus boycott, but they weren’t sure who they should use. Listen to the background and stories of Claudette Colvin and Rosa Parks and write down the advantages and disadvantages of using each woman as the catalyst for the boycott.

	Claudette Colvin	Rosa Parks
Advantages		
Disadvantages		

Montgomery Bus Boycott Committee Assignments

Transportation Committee

In response to the demeaning treatment of Black bus riders and segregation laws, local Montgomery activists are forming the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA). Since there is a lot of work that has to be done to successfully organize a boycott, the MIA is creating five committees, each with specific responsibilities.

You have chosen to be a member of the **transportation committee**. Since Montgomery's Black community has committed to not using the busses, your committee is responsible for helping boycotters find a way to get to and from work. Read the issues your group is facing below:

In the early stages of the boycott, African-American taxicab drivers provided an emergency 10-cent cab fare for boycotters. This practice was ruled illegal by the police commissioner, so MIA organizers must develop a new method to transport all boycott participants. It is not illegal for individual passengers to make contributions to the MIA; however, the MIA can subsidize a carpool. But the carpool system has run into major driver shortages, and some of the drivers have stolen money from the MIA for gasoline and tires. And now the police have ruled that it is illegal for more than two people to ride in a car. **What can the MIA do to facilitate transportation arrangements?**

Create a google slides presentation that includes the following:

- **A title page with your committee's name and a picture.**
- **Summary of problems your group is facing from the information above (2 slides).**
- **At least three alternative ways to organize/provide transportation for people who need a way to get to work. Assume you only have technology/tools from the 1950's. (3 slides)**
 - **For each alternative method, consider what can go wrong and how you might plan ahead to resolve the problems.**
- **One more solution that uses present-day technology (1 slide)**
- **A total of five relevant pictures (minimum).**

Montgomery Bus Boycott Committee Assignments

Negotiation Committee

In response to the demeaning treatment of Black bus riders and segregation laws, local Montgomery activists are forming the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA). Since there is a lot of work that has to be done to successfully organize a boycott, the MIA is creating five committees, each with specific responsibilities.

You have chosen to be a member of the **negotiation committee**. This is not the first time a group has tried to convince the mayor that conditions for Black bus riders need to be changed. The bus company and city government have not shown any commitment in the past to changing these conditions, let alone ending segregation. Read the challenges your group is facing below:

The initial goals of the boycott were:

- For the bus company to adopt a first-come, first-served segregation basis;
- Mandate drivers' courtesy to Black riders and discipline violators of this rule; and
- Make jobs as bus drivers available to Black job applicants

In the early rounds of negotiations, the bus company and the city government made concessions to the MIA. They promised that the bus company would treat the riders with more respect, but the white negotiators would not change the practice of preferential seating for whites nor would they agree to hire African-American bus drivers. **What should the negotiators do in order to convince the white bus owners and city government officials to change these discriminatory policies?**

Create a google slides presentation that includes the following:

- **A title page with your committee's name and a picture.**
- **A list of the negotiation committee's goals (1 slide)**
- **An explanation of the problems your group is facing from the information above (1 slide).**
- **At least three non-violent ways to pressure the bus company and/or city government into agreeing to meet your goals. Assume you are limited to 1950's technology. (3 slides)**
 - **For each method, consider what can go wrong and how you might plan ahead to resolve the problems.**
- **One more way to pressure the bus company and/or city government using present day technology.**
- **A total of five relevant pictures (minimum).**

Montgomery Bus Boycott Committee Assignments **Media Committee**

In response to the demeaning treatment of Black bus riders and segregation laws, local Montgomery activists are forming the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA). Since there is a lot of work that has to be done to successfully organize a boycott, the MIA is creating five committees, each with specific responsibilities.

You have chosen to be a member of the **media committee**. Your group will be in charge of managing media relations to the MIA's advantage. Since many media outlets (not all) are owned and managed by white people this will not be an easy task. Read the challenges that your group is facing below:

1. One of the most important parts of an economic boycott is dealing with the media. Decide how the MIA should generate excitement and a greater understanding of the reasons for the Boycott. **Do this by creating an “elevator pitch” - in other words, write a short (1 paragraph) message that activists should communicate to media outlets about the boycott when they are being interviewed.**

2. The boycott was initially led by local activists such as Jo Ann Robinson and E. D. Nixon. A 26-year-old minister named Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. has emerged as a very talented spokesperson for the boycott. But many people feel that he is too young, does not have a lot of experience, and has not lived in Montgomery very long. **What should be his media role? Describe what you think his role should be compared to other local activists.**

3. **How will you share information with the boycotters?** Remember, the mass media is not likely to print public service announcements for you. In addition, this is all happening long before people have computers in their homes, let alone e-mail.

Create a google slides presentation that includes the following:

- **A title page with your committee's name and a picture.**
- **A slide with the elevator pitch for the media**
- **A slide with a description of MLK Jr.'s role with the media.**
- **At least three ways to share information with boycotters and why you think they will work(no modern technology can be used).**
 - **If you plan to create materials of any kind to distribute, make those materials and include them in a separate slide.**
- **One more slide with a solution that may use present-day technology.**
- **A total of five relevant pictures (minimum).**

Montgomery Bus Boycott Committee Assignments **Mass Meeting Committee**

In response to the demeaning treatment of Black bus riders and segregation laws, local Montgomery activists are forming the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA). Since there is a lot of work that has to be done to successfully organize a boycott, the MIA is creating five committees, each with specific responsibilities.

You have chosen to be a member of the **mass meeting committee**. Your group will be in charge of coordinating mass meetings for Montgomery's Black community to attend. Read the challenges that your group is facing below:

In these days (without the existence of e-mail), there needs to be a way to communicate with people about the progress of the boycott, present decisions that need to be made, and provide updates on strategy. It has been decided to hold mass meetings, some during the day and others in the evening in order to accommodate everyone's schedule. The only locations large enough and willing to open their doors to the African-American public are the churches. (This is just one more example of the multiple roles black churches have played for many years, when other "public" institutions refused to open their doors to African Americans.) The mass meetings are an important part of the overall organizing, providing participants with direction and purpose.

Initially, people were drawn to the meetings because of the excitement about the boycott—there was a sense of power in taking a stand. However, the constant harassment (participants were often faced with threats of violence by those who opposed the civil rights movement) and the daily logistical struggles are wearing people down. **Many individuals complain that though they love the speeches in the mass meetings, they need more variety. To sustain the momentum, what can you, the organizers, do to make the meetings more spirited and uplifting?**

Create a google slides presentation that includes the following:

- **A title page with your committee's name and a picture.**
- **An explanation of the problem your group is facing.**
- **At least three ways your group will make the mass meetings more spirited and uplifting. Elaborate on what your group plans to do.**
- **A playlist of at least five songs from the 1950's that are "freedom" themed.**
 - **For at least two of the songs, create a separate slide with an explanation of it's theme, and why you think it will boost people's spirits.**
- **One more present day song that you think is "freedom" or "civil-rights" themed, with an explanation of its theme.**
- **A total of five relevant pictures (minimum).**

<https://www.thenation.com/article/activism/top-ten-civil-rights-songs/> *some music suggestions

Montgomery Bus Boycott Committee Assignments **Education Committee**

In response to the demeaning treatment of Black bus riders and segregation laws, local Montgomery activists are forming the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA). Since there is a lot of work that has to be done to successfully organize a boycott, the MIA is creating five committees, each with specific responsibilities.

You have chosen to be a member of the **education committee**. Your group will be in charge of teaching the principles of non-violence to people participating in the bus boycott. Read the challenges that your group is facing below:

Recently, the houses of some of the bus boycott leaders were bombed. Many of the individuals walking to work face harassment from their employers. There is always the threat of violence by the local Ku Klux Klan. Many members of the Montgomery community are upset at the violence and they want to retaliate. However, the leaders of the boycott are insisting that using **passive resistance** (non-violent protest) is the only way the bus boycott will be successful.

Some people believe that it is important to arm themselves with guns at private meetings and in their homes. With the threat of racist violence being significant, do you think it's okay for people to be arming themselves in private? Should they be allowed to bring their weapons with them when they're protesting just in case they're attacked? Can this possibly get in the way of the movement achieving its goals?

Your job is to convince the MIA members that the best way to conduct the bus boycott is with passive resistance, and to figure out how to address private gun ownership.

Create a google slides presentation that convinces your classmates that passive resistance is necessary for the success of the boycott and creates a set of rules regarding private gun ownership. Your presentation should include:

- **A title page with your committee's name and a picture.**
- **An explanation of the problems your group is facing.**
- **An explanation of why passive resistance is necessary for the bus boycott's success.**
- **At least three quotes about the importance of non-violent, passive resistance (can be from any time period)**
- **Explain rules regarding private gun ownership and possession (should people own guns, where can/can't they bring them, under what circumstances [if any] can they be used)**
- **A total of five relevant pictures (minimum).**

Montgomery Bus Boycott Planning Student Rubric

Directions: **Rate each criteria in the rubric on a scale from 1-5. 1 being the lowest score, 5 being the highest.** During each presentation, write either a question or some feedback that you think could help the group think through their plan a little more. As we watch the presentations, you will be called on to share your questions or feedback. If you are presenting, be prepared to respond to the questions and feedback.

Presentation Checklist- Group Name:

The group presented their challenge(s).	
Their solutions were reasonable and realistic.	
Their solutions would probably be effective.	
They thought through what might go wrong, and how they will plan for those issues.	
Every group member participated in the presentation.	
They could answer the questions from the audience.	

Questions/ Feedback:

Presentation Checklist- Group Name:

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Questions/ Feedback: