

## Freedom Riders Vocabulary List

**Admission** – the act of allowing (a person, animal, or group) to enter; entrance. (World Book 2000)

**Amendment** – a change made or offered in a law, bill, or motion by addition, omission, or alteration of language. (World Book 2000)

**Appeal** – 1. to ask earnestly; make an earnest request; ask for help or sympathy. 2. to ask that a case be taken to a higher court or judge to be heard again. (World Book 2000)

**Application** – a spoken or written request for a job, money, position, help, entrance, or office. (World Book 2000)

**Assassination** – the act of murdering someone, especially a public personage, by a sudden or secret attack; a killing. (World Book 2000)

**Black Codes** – any of the various state laws that regulated the activities of blacks in the south after the Civil War, used generally to restrict the rights of blacks by circumscribing their right to hold office and vote, forbidding ownership of land or the bearing of arms, and curtailing other civil rights. (World Book 2000)

**Boynton v. Virginia** – This case interprets the idea that interstate facilities were for the use of all citizens regardless of race. In 1958, Bruce Boynton, a black student at Howard University Law School took a Trailways bus from Washington to his home in Montgomery, Alabama. On a 40-minute layover at the Trailways Bus Terminal in Richmond, Virginia, the passengers went inside to eat. Boynton entered the segregated restaurant, sat in the white section and ordered a sandwich and tea. When asked to move to the colored section, he refused and was arrested by local police. He was charged with trespassing, and fined \$10. (<http://law.jrank.org/pages/24302/Boynton-v-Virginia-Significance.html>, 2010)

**Brown v. Board of Education** – In 1950 the Topeka NAACP, led by McKinley Burnett, set out to organize a legal challenge to an 1879 state law that permitted racially segregated elementary schools in certain cities based on population. For Kansas this would become the 12th case filed in the state focused on ending segregation in public schools. The local NAACP assembled a group of 13 parents who agreed to be plaintiffs on behalf of their 20 children. Following direction from legal counsel they attempted to enroll their children in segregated white schools and all were denied. Topeka operated eighteen neighborhood schools for white children, while African American children had access to only four schools. In February of 1951 the Topeka NAACP filed a case on their behalf. Although this was a class action it was named for one of the plaintiffs Oliver Brown. The case dismantled the legal basis for racial segregation in schools and other public facilities. The laws and policies were products of the human tendencies to prejudge, discriminate against, and stereotype other people by their ethnic, religious, physical, or cultural characteristics. (<http://brownvboard.org/summary/>, 2010)

**Citizenship** – the duties, rights, and privileges of a citizen. (World Book 2000)

**Conviction** – the act of proving or declaring guilt. (World Book 2000)

**Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)** – a not-for-profit human rights organization that seeks to bring about equality for all people regardless of race, creed, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion, or ethnic background. (<http://www.core-online.org/Features/what-is-core.htm>, 2010)

**Desegregate** – to abolish racial segregation. (World Book 2000)

**Disenfranchise** – to take any right or privilege away from. (World Book 2000)

**Emancipation** – the act or process of setting free from slavery of any kind. (World Book 2000)

**Equality** – the condition or quality of being equal; exact likeness in amount, size, number, value, degree, or rank. (World Book 2000)

**Executive Order 9981** – July 27, 1948. Violence against African American members of the U.S. Military during and following World War II prompted President Harry S. Truman to investigate African Americans' treatment and opportunities for advancement in the United States Armed Forces. Two and one-half years after the end of World War II President Truman issues Executive Order 9981 to end segregation in the U.S. Military. The President establishes the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services headed by Charles Fahy. The Fahy committee oversaw the integration of all the branches of the Armed Forces. The Navy had begun integration at the end of the war, and a year after E.O. 9981 was signed, the Air Force was ready to integrate. The other branches were not so willing to accept the idea of integration. The Army continued to have separate African American units in 1950 and the Korean War. The breakdown of segregation in the Army occurred during the Korean War when the large number of African American recruits could not be accommodated in the African American units. By 1953 the U.S. Army announced that 95% of its African American soldiers were serving in integrated units. (<http://www.trumanlibrary.org/9981.htm> 2011)

**Filibuster** – the act or process of deliberately hindering the passage of a bill in a legislature by long speeches or other means of delay. (World Book 2000)

**Freedman** – a man freed from slavery; emancipated slave. (World Book 2000)

**Freedom Summer** – a highly publicized campaign in the Deep South in 1964 that helped blacks register to vote. ([http://www.core-online.org/History/freedom\\_summer.htm](http://www.core-online.org/History/freedom_summer.htm), 2010)

**Integration** – the inclusion of people of all races on an equal basis in neighborhoods, schools, parks, or other facilities. (World Book 2000)

**Interstate** – between persons or organizations in different states; between states. (World Book, 2000)

**Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC)** – an independent agency created in reference to the Interstate Commerce Act which regulates carriers engaged in transportation in interstate commerce and in foreign commerce within the United States. (<http://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/134.html>, 2010)

**Jim Crow** – discrimination against Negroes. (World Book 2000)

**Journey of Reconciliation** – In 1946 the U.S. Supreme Court banned segregation in interstate bus travel. A year later the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and the Fellowship of Reconciliation tested the ruling by staging the Journey of Reconciliation, on which an interracial group of activists rode together on a bus through the upper south, though fearful of journeying to the Deep South. (<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/1006069/Journey-of-Reconciliation>, 2010)

**Mistrial** – an inconclusive trial, especially a trial in which the jury cannot agree on a verdict. (World Book 2000)

**Morgan v. Virginia** – this case consisted of Virginia's law requiring racial segregation in interstate public transportation. On July 16, 1944, twenty-seven-year-old Irene Morgan boarded a Greyhound bus in Gloucester County, bound for Baltimore via Washington, D.C. After standing for several miles and sitting on the lap of an accommodating young black female passenger, Morgan finally took a seat three rows from the back of the bus, in front of some white passengers. When the bus became crowded as it reached Saluda, Virginia, the bus driver insisted that Morgan yield her seat to a white passenger. After she refused and was forcibly removed from the bus, Morgan was arrested, tried, and convicted of violating a state segregation ordinance, and fined ten dollars, which she refused to pay. In a 7 to 1 ruling, the Court reversed the Virginia appellate court and struck down the Virginia law and, by extension, all similar laws in other states mandating Jim Crow practices on interstate conveyances. In April 1947, sixteen interracial passengers—eight white, eight black, and all members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR)—engaged in

a “Journey of Reconciliation” to test adherence to the decision and to help educate people about the Court’s decision. The journey was a precursor to the Freedom Rides that would pass through Virginia in May 1961. ([http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Morgan\\_v\\_Virginia\\_1946](http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Morgan_v_Virginia_1946), 2011)

**National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)** – a civil rights organization for ethnic minorities in the United States that is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic quality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination. (<http://www.naacp.org/pages/our-mission>, 2010)

**Non-violence (Non-violence movement)** – a political or philosophical belief based on peaceful methods to achieve any goal; opposite to any form of violence. (World Book, 2000)

**Nullify** – to make of no effect; destroy; cancel; wipe out. (World Book 2000)

**Parchman** – known as the Mississippi State Penitentiary that is known to provide public safety by maintaining the confinement of offenders within a safe, secure, humane and cost-effective environment, while providing meaningful work and other self-improvement opportunities to assist them in becoming productive law abiding citizens, upon their release. ([http://www.mdoc.state.ms.us/division\\_of\\_institutions\\_state\\_prisons.htm](http://www.mdoc.state.ms.us/division_of_institutions_state_prisons.htm), 2010)

**Plessy v. Ferguson** – This case upheld the idea the constitutionality of an 1890 Louisiana statute requiring white and “colored” persons to be furnished “separate but equal” accommodations on railway passenger cars. Homer Adolph Plessy, who was seven-eighths Caucasian and one-eighth African, paid for a first-class seat on a Louisiana railroad. He took a seat in the coach that was reserved for white passengers, but the conductor told him to leave the “white” car and go to the “colored” coach under threat of being expelled from the train and arrested. When Plessy refused, he was ejected from the train and imprisoned. (<http://law.jrank.org/pages/9234/Plessy-v-Ferguson.html>, 2010)

**Protest** – a statement that denies or objects strongly. (World Book 2000)

**Public accommodation** – An entity that owns or operates a place of business to which the public is invited. ([http://www.education.uiowa.edu/icater/AT\\_glossary.htm](http://www.education.uiowa.edu/icater/AT_glossary.htm), 2010)

**Rebellion** – resistance against any power or restriction. (World Book 2000)

**Reconciliation** – the act of reconciling; bringing together again. (World Book 2000)

**Rights** – The power or privilege to which one is justly entitled. (World Book 2000)

**Ruling (Supreme Court ruling)** – a decision of a judge or court. (World Book, 2000)

**Sarah Keys v. Carolina Coach Company** – In August 1952 Private Keys was granted a furlough to visit her parents in Washington, North Carolina, and purchased a bus ticket home. Traveling from Ft. Dix, New Jersey, when the bus reached Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, there was a change in buses. Keys, who was seated at the front of the bus was asked by the bus driver to exchange seats with a white Marine seated near the back of the bus. She refused to move from her seat so the driver removed all passengers except for her to another bus. Keys was not allowed to board the second bus and was arrested by force and charged with disorderly conduct. (<http://www.womensmemorial.org/Education/BHMSys.html>, 2010)

**Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)** – an American organization, consisting chiefly of southern churches, formed in 1957 to campaign for Negro civil rights. (World Book 2000)

**Segregation** – separation from others; setting apart; isolation. (World Book 2000)

**Separate but Equal** – having to do with a policy of racial segregation between Negroes and whites, as in education, employment, or transportation, by providing ostensibly equal facilities for all. (World Book 2000)

**Sit-ins** – a form of protest in which a group of people enter and remain seated for a long period of time in a public place. (World Book 2000)

**Student Non-violent Coordination Committee (SNCC)** – an organization that was established from the student sit-ins that occurred on February 1, 1960 in Greensboro, North Carolina. (<http://www.sncc50thanniversary.org/sncc.html>, 2010)

**Sovereignty Commission** – was a secret state police force operating to suppress the civil rights movement and maintain segregation. (<http://mississippi sovereigntycommission.blogspot.com/>, 2010)

**Supreme Court** – the highest court in the United States, consisting of the Chief Justice and eight associate justices. (World Book 2000)

**Upheld** – (uphold) to give support to; confirm. (World Book 2000)

**Validate** – to make valid; give legal force to. (World Book 2000)

**Women's Army Corps (WAC)** – was founded during World War II by some of the mothers of women in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) which later became the Women's Army Corps. The purpose was to help both men and women by serving in hospitals and USOs, selling bonds, mending clothes, sending comfort packages to the WACs, and doing anything they could to make life more comfortable for the men and women serving their country. (<http://www.armywomen.org/aboutUs.shtml>, 2010)