

Shifting the gaze: Bringing TPS directly into children's classrooms: Learning with Primary Sources

Utilizing the Library of Congress' Rosa Parks collection to explore the question: How is the Civil Rights Movement an Ongoing Struggle? with urban elementary and middle school students as part of Children's Defense Fund Freedom School program.

Context and Background

The Wake Forest University Children's Defense Fund Freedom School is a free six-week, literacy-based summer program for K-8 students. Through a culturally diverse curriculum, Freedom School encourages a love of reading and learning. With a theme of "I Can Make A Difference."

During summer 2022 Learning with Primary Sources afternoon sessions ran with 50 students K-8 (K-2, 3-5, 6-8). Working in groups of 3-4, and supported by 14 graduate students alongside servant leaders, the children explored and talked about primary sources to learn about Rosa Parks and the Civil Rights Movement

Plans for sustainability include sharing/presenting resources at the CDF Freedom School's regional and national 2023 trainings conferences, running professional development with local schools, and sharing the project with preservice teachers.

Learning with Sources: Connecting Rosa Parks to Emmett Till to Current Events

Research to Practice Discussing Race and Civil Rights with and through primary sources