

Robert F. Kennedy and the 1968 Indiana Primary

From Protest to Memory: How April 4 Becomes Public History

Content Focus

- **How do traumatic events become public memory?**

Historical Connection

- **Funeral train imagery**
- **Symbolism**
- **Newspaper coverage**
- **The Landmark for Peace memorial**
- **Emotional public reactions**
- **This topic lets students examine how societies remember tragedy and how images shape national identity.**

Question

- **Why do some images become part of national memory?**

Student Objectives

Teaching: Students examine photographs connected to mourning, protest, or public reaction.

Students ask:

- **What is visible?**
- **What is missing?**
- **What emotions does this image encourage?**
- **Who is the intended audience?**
- **How might this shape public memory of 1968?**

Possible Extension: Students compare historical memory of 1968 with a more recent national tragedy or memorial event.

Primary Sources for Lesson

LOOK Magazine photograph collection <https://www.loc.gov/collections/look-magazine/>

RFK funeral-related image <https://www.loc.gov/item/22089255>

D.C. riot aftermath <https://www.loc.gov/item/2003688168/>

Civil Rights history exhibition <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/civil-rights-act/>

Historic newspaper collections <https://www.loc.gov/collections/chronicling-america/>