

FINAL PROJECT SAMPLE

Ms. Hagen

School Equality

My issue in the past:

From reading the book, *Little Rock Nine*, I learned a lot about school inequality. I learned about the first schools in the south who tried to integrate the black and white students together and all the problems they had. The Little Rock Nine, nine black students who were accepted at the all white school (all were great students with strong grades and clean discipline records), were threatened, bullied and beat up. These brave kids paved the way for other black students. While their year at Little Rock Central High was traumatic, it showed the country how poorly black students were treated in some parts of the country. It showed the kind of violence blacks were enduring and it prompted change.

My issue today:

When I studied school equality today, I find that students have far better opportunities for an equal education than they had back in the 1950s. Black and white students routinely attend schools together at the elementary, middle and high school level. At college also, black and white students attend together. There are still examples of racial hatred, like a noose being put around the neck of a statue at the University of Mississippi of the first black student to attend. These events are done by individuals, not masses, and quick action has been taken. There are still some schools that are dominantly black and others that are white, but this is due to neighborhoods, not because blacks must attend certain schools.

How to solve this issue:

In America education has progressed a long way. All races and ethnicities are integrated into schools across the country. However, the problem of equal education has not been solved. There is still an achievement gap between black and white students. I believe the solution to the achievement gap lies in reading. If children are routinely read to from the time they are babies, whole worlds open up to them. School is easier when you are familiar with language and books. Free access to preschool would ensure that every child begins kindergarten with basic academic and social skills. With everyone ready to learn, all students would have a chance to achieve at the highest levels. School would then be an equal place with no achievement gaps at all.