Too often, students learn that struggles ended in the past (i.e. school segregation ended in Little Rock; the Montgomery Bus Boycott stopped segregated busing; passage of the Voting Rights Act totally eliminated all obstacles to voting, etc.) thus falsely believing there is no need to push as hard. Yet those same students may notice that many of these historic conditions can influence some things in their life narrative today. The boldness and courage of youth yesterday and today meant that the word “rights” can be defined more extensively and is not exclusive to the right to remain silent and go to jail.
“A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.”

—Mohandas Gandhi (1869 – 1948)
The civil rights movement offers hundreds of role models and case studies, many of them who were youth, that make it easy for students to see how participants critiqued and resisted efforts intended to limit their potential.
THE LITTLE ROCK 9

“You can overcome adversity if you know you are doing the right thing.”

BECAUSE OF THEM, WE CAN...
ONE CHILD, ONE TEACHER, ONE BOOK AND ONE PEN CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.

– MALALA YOUSAFZAI
I speak not for myself, but so those without a voice can be heard.

— Malala Yousafzai
The Carter family fought poverty and intimidation to keep gain and keep their seats.
"I know that experience comes to us for a purpose, and if we follow the spirit within us, we will probably find that the purpose is a good one."

-Ruby Bridges

"I grew to love Ruby and to be awed by her. It was an ugly world outside, but I tried to make our world together as normal as possible. Neither one of us ever missed a day of school together. It was important to keep going."

-Barbara Henry

"I remember being afraid on the first day Ruby went to Frantz school, when I came home and turned on the tv set and I realized that, at that moment, the whole world was watching my baby and talking about her. At that moment I was most afraid."

-Lucille Bridges

**Through My Eyes**

By Ruby Bridges
RUBY BRIDGES

“That fateful walk to school began a journey, and we must all work together to continue moving forward.”

BECAUSE OF THEM, WE CAN...
You must not allow crime to take your seat from you.

James Meredith fought to keep his seat.
JAMES MEREDITH

"March Against Fear."

BECAUSE OF THEM, WE CAN...
In 2014, Kendal Benjamin refused to give in to labels. He graduated by refusing to give up his seat to homelessness.
In 2014, Joshua Williams – Also homeless graduated as a criminal justice major from Bethune Cookman University without ever letting his peers and professors know.
Though familiar with Mrs. Rosa Parks . . .
... And her refusal to give up her seat ...
Earlier in 1955, Claudette Colvin, then 15, refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus...
REPUBLICAN CONVENTION
8-11 AUGUST 2012
ATLAS BALLROOM
FREEDOM TOWER
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

REP. JOHN LEWIS

"The means by which we struggle must be consistent with the ends we seek."

BECAUSE OF THEM, WE CAN...
THE GREENSBORO FOUR

“Sitting down to take a stand.”

BECAUSE OF THEM, WE CAN...
You now have the privilege to keep your seat, despite your personal struggle, because so many other students endured the hardships by keeping theirs.
A. Empowered students can:

a. Express empathy when people are excluded or mistreated because of their identities and concern when they themselves experience bias;

b. Recognize their own responsibility to stand up to exclusion, prejudice and injustice;

c. Speak up with courage and respect when they or someone else has been hurt or wronged;

d. Make principled decisions about when and how to take a stand against bias and injustice in their everyday lives, when it legitimately exists, and will do so despite negative peer or group pressure; and

e. Plan and carry out collective action against bias and injustice in the world and will evaluate what strategies are most effective.