



## Module 1, Unit 3, Lesson 2:

# Southern Christian Leadership Conference - Document Analysis

### Directions

Work in small groups to answer the following questions

This assignment contains four sources required for your understanding of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Read sources A to D and answer questions 1 to 4.

1. According to Source D, describe Martin Luther King, Jr.'s message to the members of the SCLC. [3 points]
2. What can you infer from Source C about the purpose of the cartoon? Explain your answer [2 points]
3. Explain the values and limitations of Source B in reflecting the SCLC's vision at the end of the 1950s. [5 points]
4. "To what extent did the vision of King and the SCLC in 1957 come to fruition by 1965." Explain your answer with reference to Sources A, B and C, and prior knowledge." [5 points]

**Source A: Martin Luther King, Jr. "Give Us the Ballot." May 17, 1957. Washington, D.C.**

*Give us the ballot, and we will no longer have to worry the federal government about our basic rights.*

*Give us the ballot and we will no longer plead to the federal government for passage of an anti-lynching law; we will by the power of our vote write the law on the statute books of the South and bring an end to the dastardly acts of the hooded perpetrators of violence.*

*Give us the ballot and we will transform the salient misdeeds of bloodthirsty mobs into the calculated good deeds of orderly citizens.*

*Give us the ballot and we will fill our legislative halls with men of goodwill and send to the sacred halls of Congress men who will not sign a "Southern Manifesto" because of their devotion to the manifesto of justice.*

*Give us the ballot and we will place judges on the benches of the south who will do justly and love mercy and we will place at the head of the southern states governors who have felt not only the tang of the human, but the glow of the Divine.*

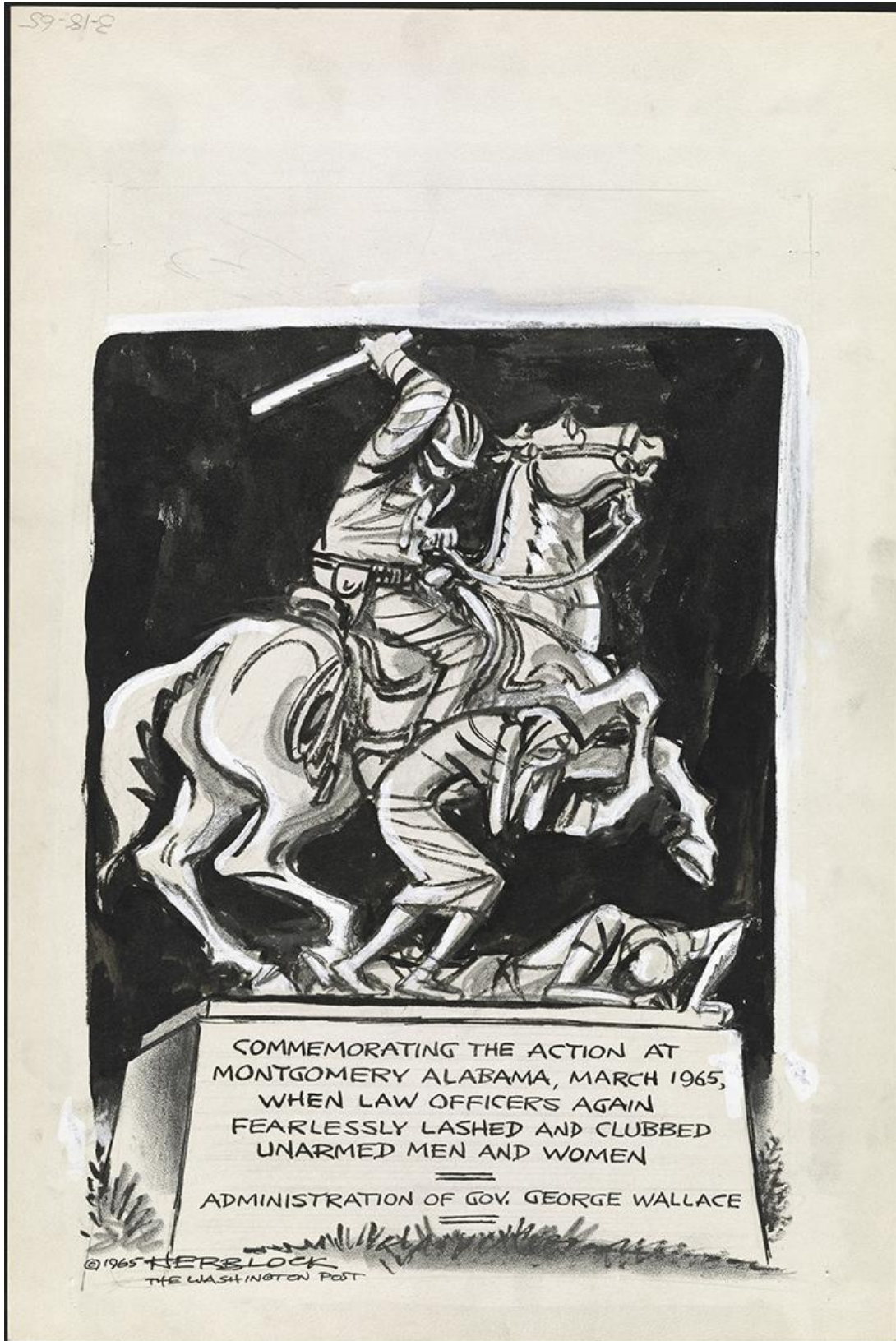
## Group to Help Negro Voters

MONTGOMERY, ALA. (AP) — A \$200,000 fund-raising drive to help southern Negroes become registered voters before the 1958 congressional elections was opened here Thursday night.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization of Negro leaders from throughout the south, will establish voting clinics throughout the south to teach Negroes the technique of voting and assist them with educational requirements of voter registration.

In areas where resistance is encountered, the conference will gather facts and present them to duly constituted authority, said the Rev. Martin Luther King, jr., president of the conference.

SOURCE C: Herb Block. "Commemorating the Action at Montgomery, Alabama. March 1965." *Washington Post*. 1965 Retrieved from Library of Congress at <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/herblock-gallery/herblock-looks-at-1965.html>



Source D: *The Montgomery Advertiser*. "Southern Christian Leadership Conference organized, Martin Luther King named president." September 24, 1957.

## King Sounds Appeal For Non-Violence

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. is sending a telegram to the president of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and a Negro minister in Little Rock, Ark., urging "a way of non-violence," his secretary said last night.

Rev. King is president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization of pro-integration Negro leaders from the Southern states, and was active in last year's boycott of segregated city buses here.

Mrs. L. R. Ballou, his secretary, said the telegram was sent to Mrs. L. C. Bates, president of the Little Rock NAACP, and the Rev. Roland Smith, a Negro minister there.

"Urge the people of Little Rock to adhere rigorously to a way of non-violence at this time," the telegram reads. "I know this is difficult advice at a time when you are being terrorized, stoned and threatened by ruthless mobs, but non-violence is the only way to a lasting solution for the problem. You must meet physical force with soul force.

"You have no alternative but to continue the struggle for integrated schools, but do it with a thorough commitment to Christian principles. If the white mobs of Little Rock choose to be un-Christian and disgracefully barbaric in their acts, you must continue to be Christian and dignified in yours.

"History is on our side. World opinion is with you. The moral conscience of white America is with you. Keep struggling with this faith and the tragic midnight of anarchy and mob rule which encompasses your city at this time will be transformed into the glowing daybreak of freedom and justice."