

**Re-Opening Civil Rights Murders  
5 Day Lesson Plan**

|  | <b>Day 1</b>   | <b>Day 2</b>  | <b>Day 3</b>  | <b>Day 4</b>  | <b>Day 5</b>   |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Instructional Goal</b>  | Understand significance of Freedom Summer and know about Chaney, Schwerner, Goodman<br><br>Understand timeline in Neshoba County Slayings case | Discuss problems with re-opening civil rights cases                                   | Discuss problems with re-opening civil rights cases                                   | Discuss outcomes of covered cases   | Understand reasoning in MS Supreme Court opinion in Beckwith Case and read Eudora Welty's "Where the Voice Coming From?" |
| <b>Content</b><br>(what is to be taught)   | Events leading up to the murders of Chaney, Schwerner, and Goodman   | Problems with due process and statute of limitations                                  | Problems about missing physical evidence and dead witnesses                           | Avants case, Chambliss case, Beckwith case, and Killen case                           | MS Supreme Court decision in Beckwith case and Welty essay   |
| <b>Teaching Procedures</b><br>(methods to be used)   | Lecture and discussion<br>Films about Freedom Summer   | Lecture and discussion  | Lecture and discussion  | Lecture and discussion and show films about outcomes                                  | Have students read selected text of opinion and read Welty essay   |
| <b>Student Participation</b><br>(how will the students participate)                          | Students will ask questions and discuss events   | Students will ask questions and discuss events  | Students will ask questions and discuss events  | Students will ask questions and discuss events  | Students will ask questions and discuss events   |
| <b>Evaluation Procedures</b><br>(how will whether the material has been learned be measured) | Students will write essays and answer homework questions about the material discussed  | Students will write essays and answer homework questions about the material discussed | Students will write essays and answer homework questions about the material discussed | Students will write essays and answer homework questions about the material discussed | Students will write essays and answer homework questions about the material discussed                                    |
| <b>Materials and Aids</b><br>(what is needed to teach the lesson)                            | Films about Freedom Summer   | Maps to find Neshoba County, Adams County, Hinds County, and Birmingham, AL           | Maps to find Neshoba County, Adams County, Hinds County, and Birmingham, AL           | Films about cases   | Opinion in Beckwith v. State – by MS. Supreme Court; Welty's Where is the Voice Coming From?                             |

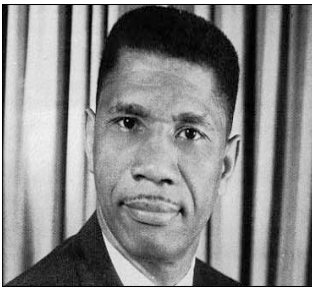
## Pictorial Essay

For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them, e.g, men become builders by building and lyre players by playing the lyre; so too we become just by doing just acts, temperate by doing temperate acts, brave by doing brave acts.

**Aristotle**, *Nichomachean Ethics*



Byron De La Beckwith in 1994 (Photo: AP)

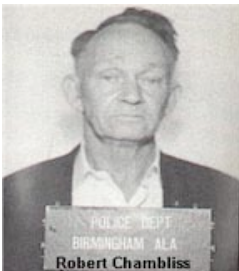


Medgar Evers, 37, Mississippi field secretary for the NAACP. He was shot and killed outside his home after returning from an integration rally. This is a 1963 photo. (Photo: AP)



Schwerner, Chaney, and Goodman

*Clarion-Ledger* file photo:



AP file photo: Robert Chambliss

## The Neshoba County Slayings: *Clarion-Ledger* Timeline of the Case

### 1964

- **June 16:** Klansmen beat members of Mount Zion Methodist Church in Neshoba County and burn down the church building.
- **June 21:** Civil rights workers Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James Chaney travel in their station wagon to investigate. They're arrested and jailed, then released. Returning home, they're killed by more than 20 Klansmen.
- **June 23:** FBI agents find the burned-out station wagon 13 miles northeast of Philadelphia in a swamp.
- **Aug. 4:** FBI agents find the trio's bodies buried 15 feet beneath an earthen dam.
- **Dec. 4:** FBI arrests 21 suspects in connection with the trio's killings. The 19 men charged with conspiring to deprive the trio of their constitutional rights include: Olen Burrage, Otha Neal Burkes, Edgar Ray Killen, Neshoba County Sheriff Lawrence Rainey, Deputy Cecil Price, Billy Wayne Posey, Jerry McGrew Sharpe, Jimmy Lee Townsend, Herman Tucker, Bernard Akin, Jimmy Arledge, Horace Doyle Barnette, Travis Maryn Barnette, James "Pete" Harris, Frank Herndon, James Edward Jordan, Alton Wayne Roberts, Jimmy Snowden and Oliver Warner Jr. Earl Akin and Tommy Horne are arrested on charges of withholding knowledge of a felony.
- **Dec. 10:** U.S. Commissioner Esther Carter dismisses the charges because Horace Doyle Barnette, who confessed, isn't present to testify.

### 1965

- **Jan. 15:** FBI arrests 18 in connection with the trio's killings. Original defendants Earl Akin, Burkes, Horne and Warner aren't indicted. Philadelphia Patrolman Richard Willis is added as a suspect.
- **Feb. 25-26:** U.S. District Judge William Harold Cox of Jackson dismisses felony charges against all defendants except Jordan. Cox rules the law does not make murder a federal crime and that only the three defendants who are law officers — Rainey, Price and Willis — can be tried on the charges.

### 1966

- **March 28:** U.S. Supreme Court reverses Cox's decision.
- **Oct. 7:** Cox dismisses indictments again, agreeing with defense lawyers who claimed the pool of potential jurors didn't include enough minorities or women.

### 1967

- **Feb. 28:** A federal grand jury indicts a new group of 19 defendants: Sheriff Rainey, Deputy Price, Philadelphia Patrolman Willis, Imperial Wizard Sam Bowers, E.G. "Hop" Barnett, Olen Burrage, Edgar Ray Killen, Billy Wayne Posey, Jerry McGrew Sharpe, Herman Tucker, Bernard Akin, Jimmy Arledge, Horace Doyle Barnette, Travis Maryn Barnette, James "Pete" Harris, Frank Herndon, James Edward Jordan, Alton Wayne Roberts and Jimmy Snowden. Jordan's case is separated from the others.
- **Oct. 9:** A jury begins to hear the case against 18 remaining defendants, minus Jordan.
- **Oct. 12:** Jordan testifies to the details of the killings and later pleads guilty to conspiracy.
- **Oct. 18:** Case goes to jury.
- **Oct. 19:** Jury informs Judge Cox of deadlock. Cox issues a "dynamite charge," ordering jury to continue deliberations.
- **Oct. 20:** The jury convicts Arledge, Bowers, Horace Doyle Barnette, Posey, Price, Roberts and Snowden of conspiracy. The jury acquits Akin, Travis Barnette, Burrage, Harris, Herndon, Rainey, Tucker and Willis. E.G. Barnett, Killen and Sharpe receive mistrials. Bowers and Roberts receive 10-year sentences; Price and Posey, six years; Arledge, Snowden and Horace Doyle Barnette, three years. By 1970, their appeals exhausted, they go to prison. Mississippi never tries the men for murder.

## 1998

- **Dec. 27:** The trio's families call for reopening the case when The Clarion-Ledger reports one-time Imperial Wizard Sam Bowers admitted he thwarted justice in the case, saying he didn't mind going to prison because a fellow Klansman got away with murder.

## 1999

- **Feb. 25:** Attorney General Mike Moore and District Attorney Ken Turner meet. Moore assigns investigators and lawyers to the case.
- **December:** Moore's office receives 40,000 pages in FBI reports on the case.

## 2001

- **Aug. 7:** Mississippi Attorney General Mike Moore tells those involved in the 1964 killings that they can be a witness now or be a defendant later.

## 2005

- **Jan. 6:** State grand jury returns first-ever murder indictments.

[www.clarionledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050107/NEWS01/50107008/1240](http://www.clarionledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050107/NEWS01/50107008/1240)