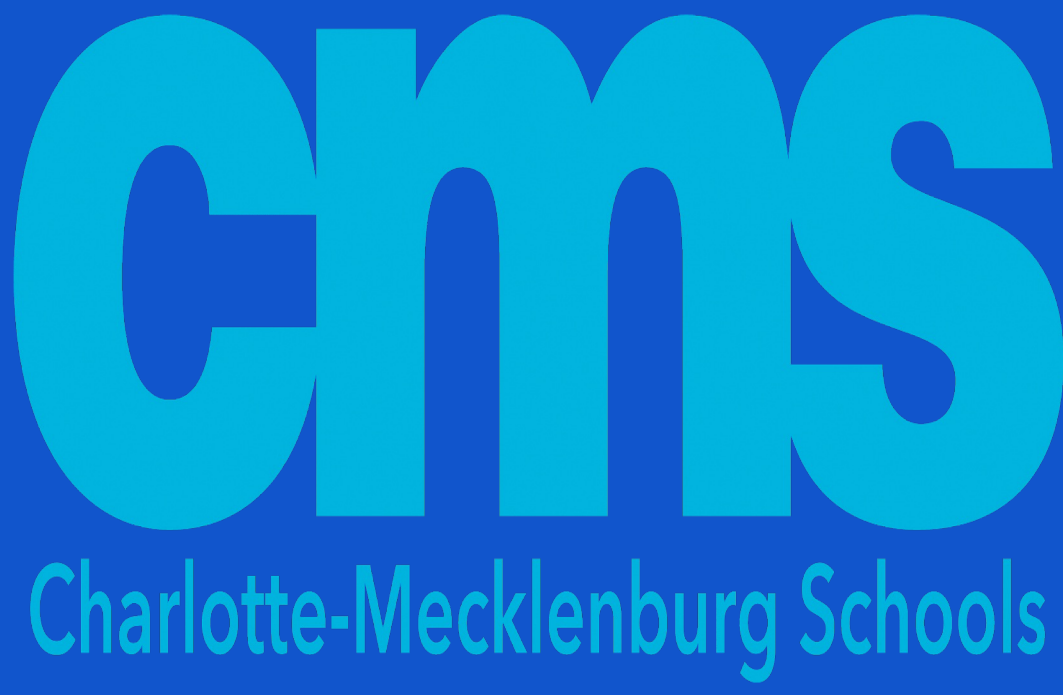


The ❤️ of Social Justice: The Case for Empathy



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Introduction: The Why? Empathy, Laws & Peacebuilding

As a 6th Grade Social Studies Teacher, teaching true history is a very important responsibility and is important for teaching empathy to students. My recent Civil Rights Trip with other CTI educators has really made a difference in my perspective on teaching history and the importance of empathy in the classroom. I was especially affected by the cause/effect relationship between hateful rhetoric and the laws created that perpetuated violence against minorities. Teaching history is not about focusing on negative parts of our history but to develop an understanding of how human rights and civil rights are exercises in teaching empathy to students to help them understand the importance of a well-functioning government and accepting of the rights of others can lead to more peaceful society. Imagine how history might have been different if empathy had played a more important role and if the concept of human rights for all was central. Students can feel empowered to stand up for their basic rights.

Even today, there are state houses that are working to limit basic rights pertaining to voting, the teaching of historical facts, and are creating bills to limit the rights of marginalized communities. History past, present and future is influenced by the presence of or lack of empathy.

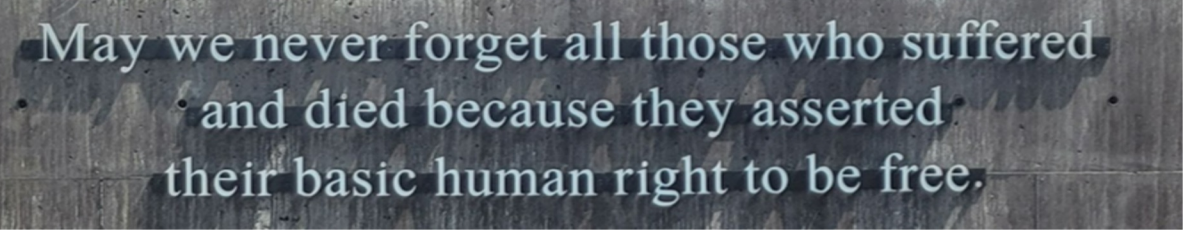
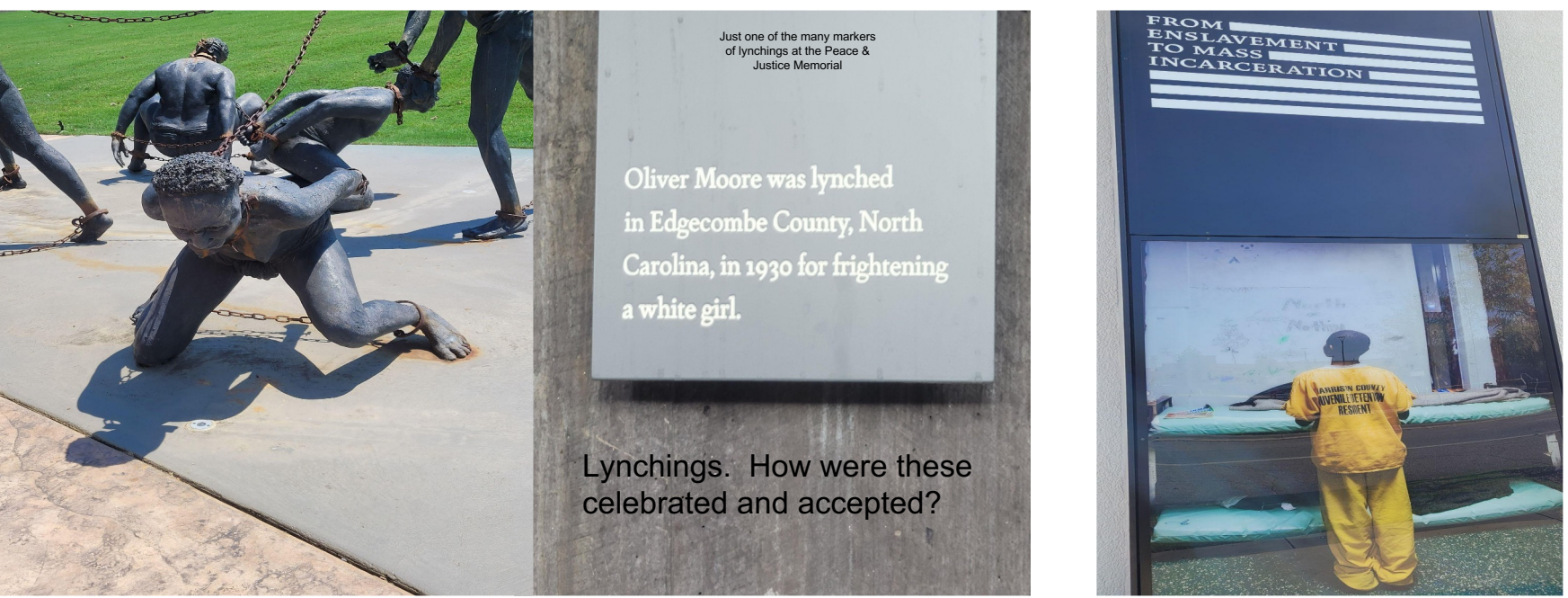


Photo from The Peace and Justice Memorial in Montgomery, AL

SRET Learning Objectives



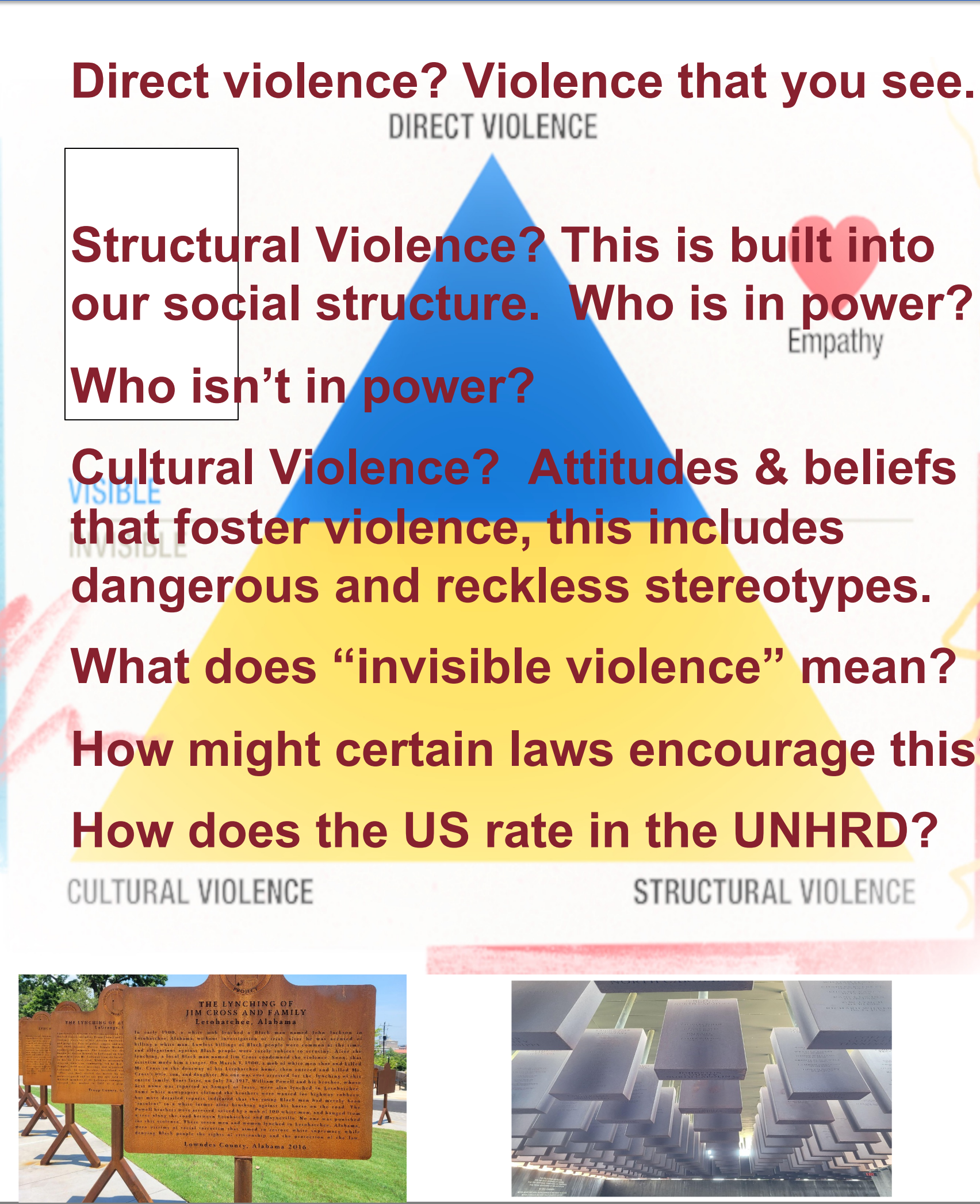
NCSCOS 6.C&G. 1.4 Compare the evolution of laws and legal systems in various civilizations, empires, and societies in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas .

Students will examine laws that were created and either limited or increased the rights of specific groups of individuals. What was the benefits and consequences of these laws on society? What parts of The Pillars of Peace and the Triangle of Violence were impacted? There is a history of demonizing groups of people then creating laws that foster violence. Students will explore a historical perspective and apply it to Social Justice Issues that occur in the present.



Photos from The Legacy Museum and The Peace & Justice Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama

Why does this matter?
Slavery, Reconstruction, Jim Crow Laws, The Holocaust...
Atrocities that happened prior to the
UN Human Declaration of Rights.Yet, Jim Crow laws, lynchings, segregation and the violent struggle for Civil Rights continued in the US.



Peace and Justice Memorial, Birmingham, Alabama

Student Essential Questions Critical Thinking Can anyone be a human rights defender?

What are human rights?
How important is accepting the rights of others?
What happens when the rights of others are not respected? What happens when they are respected?
What does “peace” mean to you?

How are direct, cultural and structural violence connected to human rights?

How can understanding the relationship between violent conflicts and human rights lead to empathy?

What is the importance of understanding the differences and impact of Direct Violence, Structural Violence and Cultural Violence on society past & present?



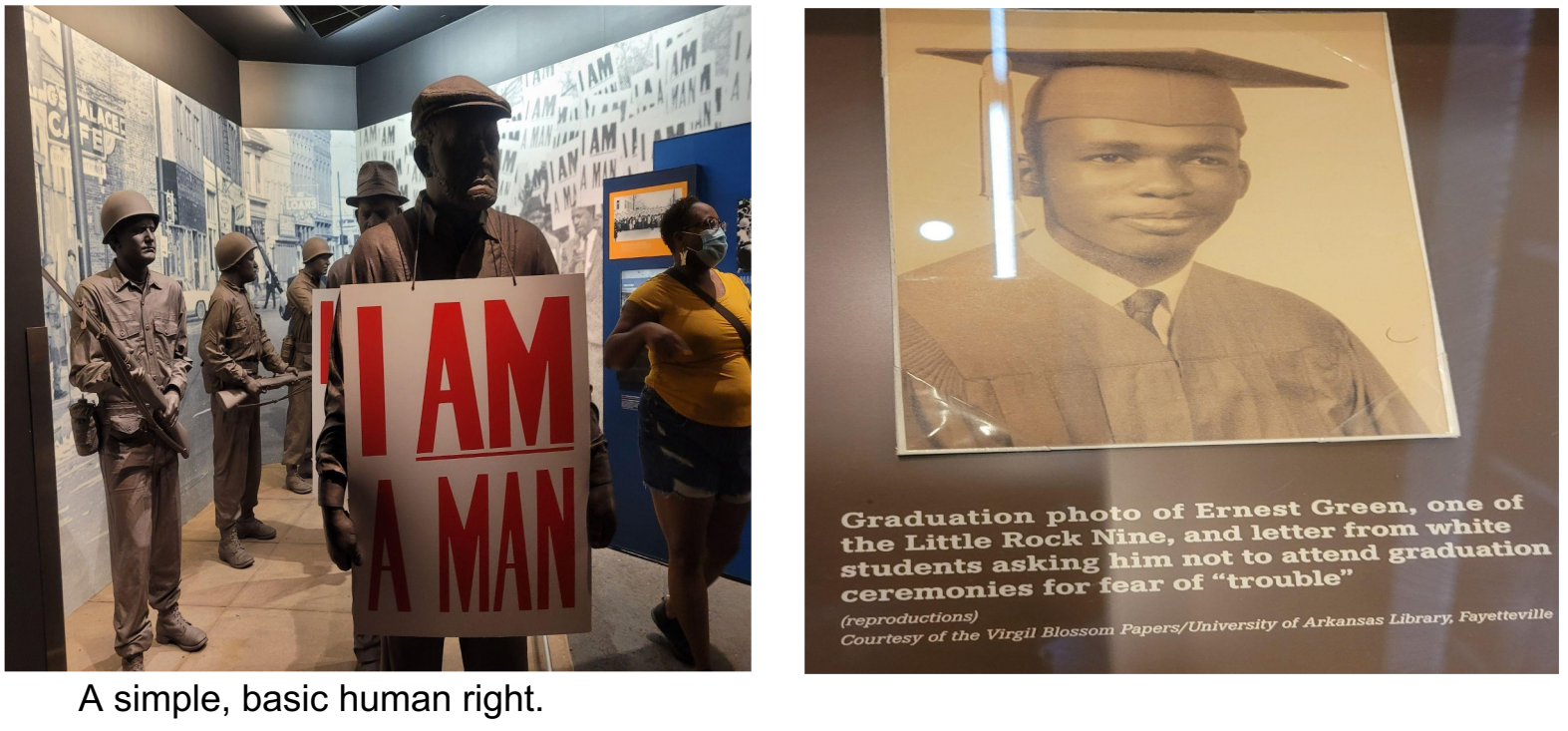
Where do you stand on Human Rights?

Historical Perspective on Human Rights
“...through its stories, conflicts, compromises and resolutions, social studies teaches empathy with authenticity”.

Whose rights were protected? Why? How were values reflected in the laws of societies.?
Historical Examples of Peace & Peacebuilders throughout history in Ancient River Valley and Classical Civilizations



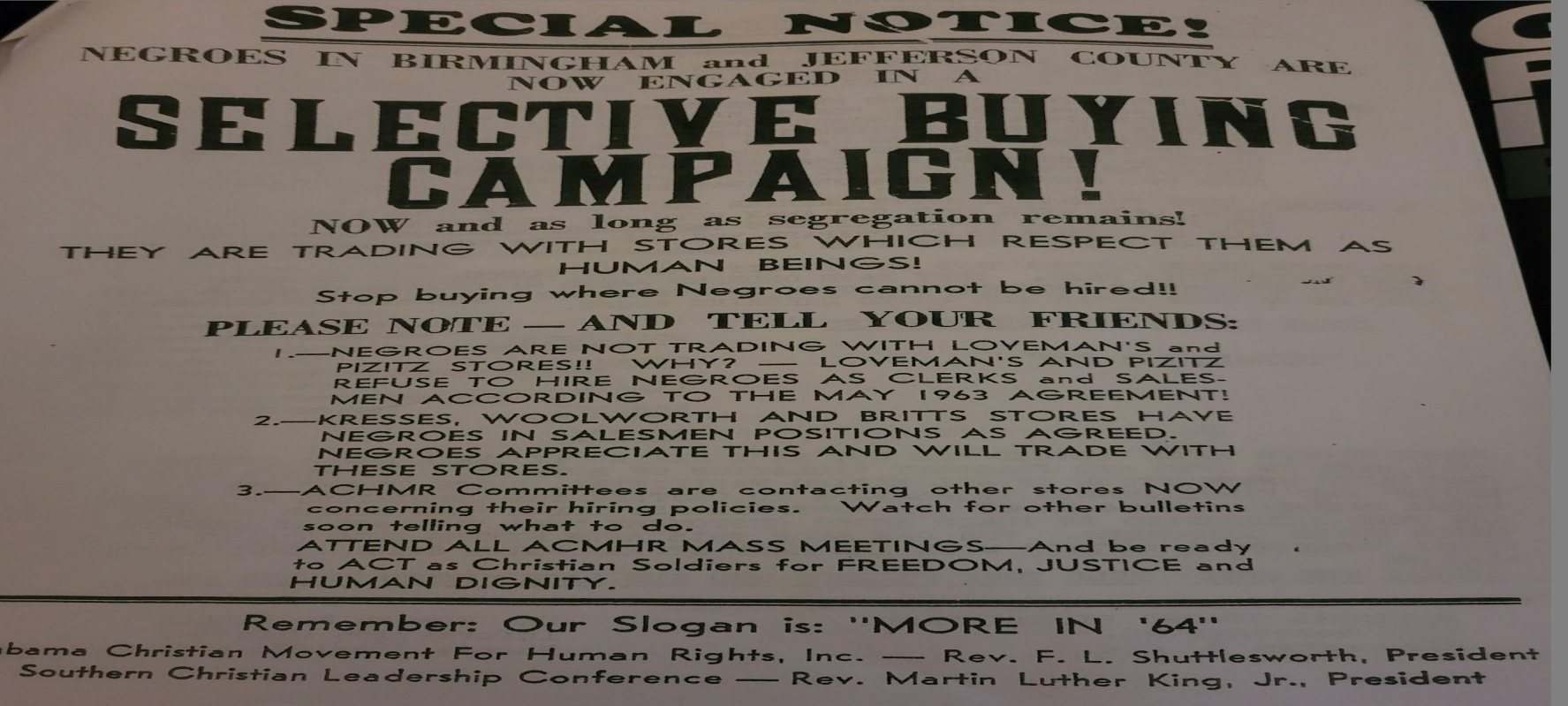
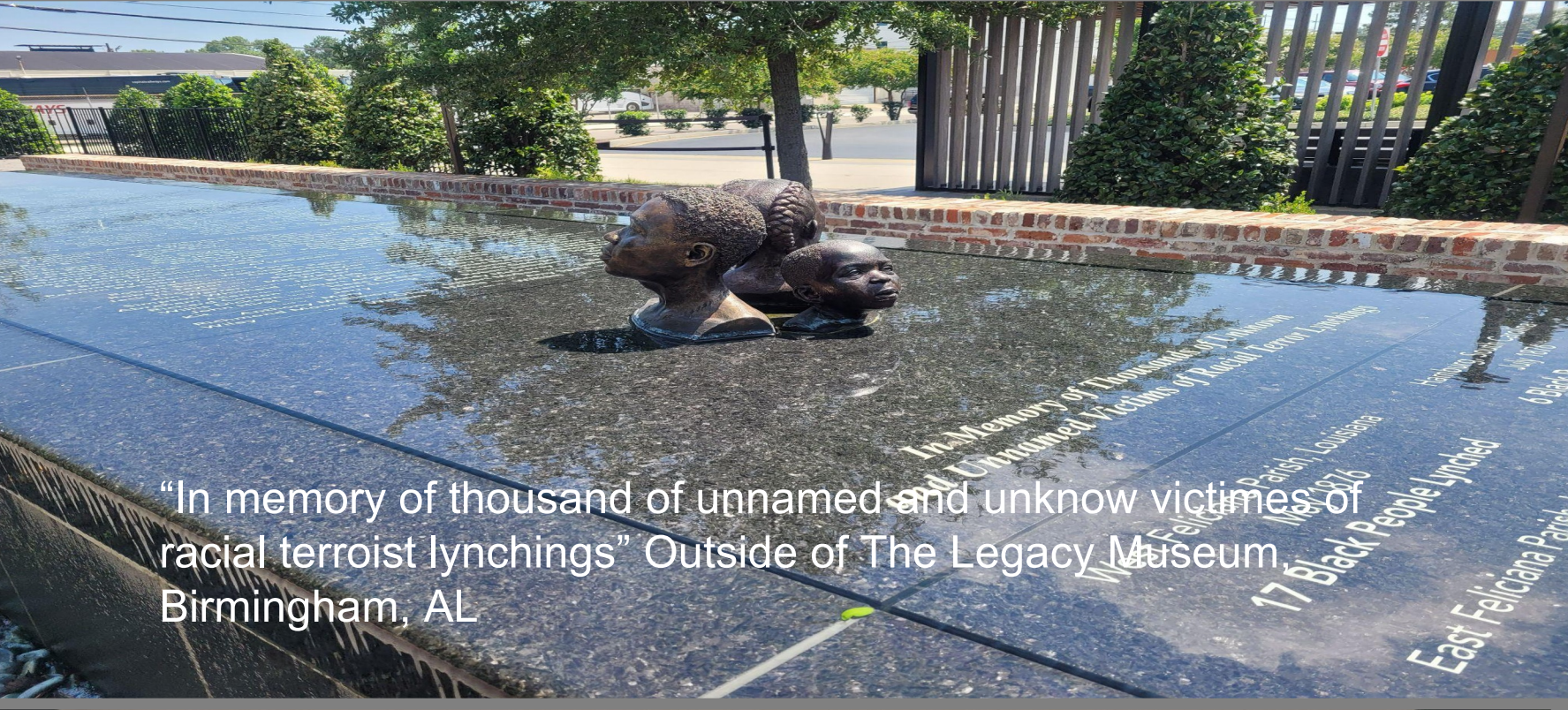
Civil Rights Victims & Peacemakers



A simple, basic human right.

The Evolution of Human and Civil Rights The Right to Rights

National Civil Rights Museum at The Lorraine Motel, Memphis, Tennessee



The Classroom Experience Social Justice

Separate But Equal?

Two different types of candy, one includes popular candy and the other peppermint.
Both groups have candy.

Big question: Does that make it equal? How did you feel based on the group that you were assigned?

What Spheres of Peace can this relate to? Why?
Alternate or Extend the Experience

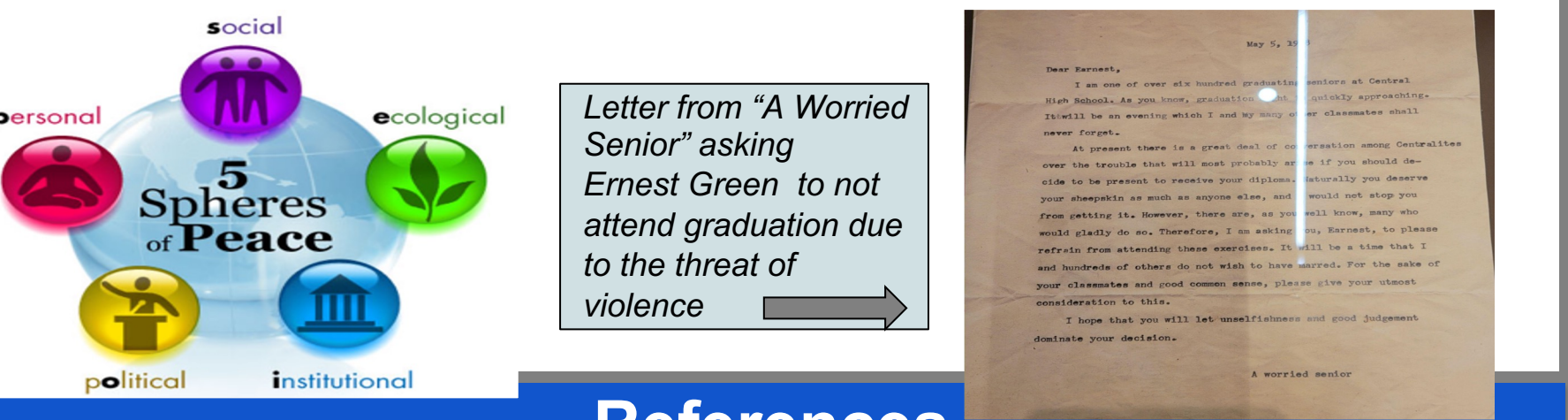
Place brand new pencils and supplies on desks throughout the classroom. On remaining desks, place pencils that have been used and are worn along with partially used materials, such as a spiral notebook with a few a pieces of paper. Direct students to a desk and have them begin to work. This will lend itself to engaging class discussions and help students understand how laws can be damaging.

Where Do You Stand?

Students will analyze laws and rights through history to determine the importance of that right to society. How do the laws relate to the 5 Spheres of Peace? The Pillars of Peace? The Triangle of Violence?

Human Rights

Students work together to create a list of rights they want.



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