**The Freedom Riders**

Available on Kanopy

*Viewing Guide (1 each)*

Answer these questions as you watch the movie. Answering these questions will help you stay focused on the movie and these notes will be helpful to have during the class discussion in our next class.

(You can answer questions 1-4 in the first 3 minutes of the movie)

1. Briefly explain (in 3-5 sentences) what the Freedom Ride was.

The Freedom Ride was a two-week bus trip planned by a group of people, where they would ride Greyhound and Trailways buses and deliberately refute segregation laws. It was to go to the deep south and see where the most segregation was, and to move the real movements for anti-segregation to the deep south. They hoped it would start a national movement” –student answer

1. In what year did they occur?

1961

1. What social movement organization initially had the idea to do this?

CORE (Congress for Racial Equality)

1. What was the initial goal of this ride

To force the deep south to desegregate bus travel by highlighting the ways in which states were not following federal regulations

1. Who was the president during this time?

John F. Kennedy

1. What supreme court case made it illegal to practice Jim Crow/ segregation in interstate travel?

Morgan V. State of Virginia

1. In what two cities did the Freedom Riders first meet violence?

Anniston, AL (Montgomery, AL is also okay); Birmingham, AL

1. Who is Diane Nash?

A student leader of the freedom riders who organized the Nashville Riders

1. Why were the freedom riders frustrated with Martin Luther King, Jr.?

“He refused to become a Freedom Rider based on what his Alabama sources were telling him of the violent Klan there. Some thought the Freedom Riders were causing more harm than good. A majority of the riders thought King saw himself as higher than them.” –student answer

1. What jail in Mississippi did the Freedom Riders get sent to? Why was this jail seen as different than other arrests?

Parchman Prison. It was a hard labor camp.

*Questions (3 each)*

Answer the following questions. Answers should be about one paragraph unless otherwise noted

1. Briefly describe (2-3 sentences) what the tactic of non-violence is, as defined by the Freedom Riders.

“The tactic of nonviolence from the Freedom Riders was a strategy in which when they were encountered with violence they would not react with violence.” *– student answer*

1. Do you think that if you were a freedom rider, you would have employed nonviolence?

Answers vary; should show understanding of nonviolence and thought on the matter

1. When the Nashville contingent of Freedom Riders decided to continue the rides, the president’s assistant called organizer and college student Diane Nash directly. Do you think that college students engaged in a social movement today could have this power? Why or why not?

Answers vary; should show understanding of what happened in the documentary and thought on the matter