**WRITING TASK ROSA PARKS BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROJECT**

Read the two assigned articles in NewsELA, and complete the annotations assigned. (You may take the quiz also to receive credit for the February quizzes.)

You have two writing assignments that stem from these two articles. This assignment is moving us closer to what you face for the timed writing prompt in April/May. The goal is to give you practice thinking in these manners. One assignment is due this upcoming Tuesday, the other will be due in two Tuesdays.

#1 You have read both Rosa Parks articles from NewsELA.com, Correcting 5 myths about Rosa Parks and her stand on a Montgomery bus and Rosa Parks' emotional journals on display. Both articles are about the same topic, but approach the topic in very different manners. Write an essay in which you compare and contrast the way the authors approach the topic Rosa Parks. Be sure to cite specific examples from both passages. Be sure to use proper English Grammar.

1. TO DO LIST based on the writing task above.
2. Venn Diagram showing how the author’s compare and contrast
3. Actual written essay

Due: 2/7/2017

#2 Write a narrative of the Rosa Park story from the perspective of the white person who boarded the bus. Your narrative should be a believable account from the new perspective, and fit in well with the perspectives of Rosa Park and the bus driver. Your narrative should clearly reflect the characterization and setting in the passage.

Due: 2/21/2017

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| **Rosa Parks' emotional journals on display** By Tribune Washington Bureau, adapted by Newsela staff  02.16.15  WASHINGTON — Rosa Parks is known as "the first lady of civil rights" and "the mother of the freedom movement." At the time of her arrest in 1955, buses were segregated — meaning they had different seating areas for blacks and whites. Parks was arrested after she refused to give up her seat for a white male passenger. Her courageous stand inspired a historic campaign to end segregation on buses.  Despite her prominent role in the fight against segregation, the public has never thought of Parks as a forceful, angry protester. Instead, she has always been portrayed as proper, gentle and ladylike.  A black-and-white photograph that shows Rosa Parks re-enacting her refusal to give up her seat fits the image we have of her. She is conservatively dressed and holds her handbag tightly on her lap, so as not to bother any of the other passengers. She certainly does not seem militant — that is, forceful and combative.  **A Complex Woman**  There was much more to Parks than her public image suggests. Journals and letters from the same period as her 1955 arrest show that she was feeling hurt and angry. They reveal that she found segregation in Montgomery, Alabama, so soul-crushing that “the line between reason and madness grows thinner.”  “Such a good job of ‘brain washing’ was done on the Negro, that a militant Negro was almost a freak of nature to them," she wrote. An African-American who spoke up forcefully against injustice was often "ridiculed by others of his own group.”  Both sides of Parks’ personality — the calm, determined protester and the furious agitator for change — can be seen in newly released documents. The collection includes 7,500 manuscripts and 2,500 photographs.  The documents are on loan to the Library of Congress for the next 10 years.  The collection opens to the public on Wednesday, which would have been Parks’ 102nd birthday. Parks died in 2005 at age 92.  **A Time Capsule Of Her Life**  The journals detail the injustices of her daily life as a seamstress in the Montgomery Fair department store. Black employees of the store were forced to eat lunch leaning up against the blacks-only bathroom. They also show her raw anger at the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till in Mississippi, less than four months before Parks’ arrest. Parks called Till's murder a killing “that could be multiplied many times in the South.”  The documents are very varied. They range from a peanut butter pancake recipe scribbled on the back of a bank envelope, to a program for a brunch honoring militant activist Angela Davis. There are postcards from the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., along with a worn Bible.  Parks deliberately maintained her image as shy and proper, said Adrienne Cannon, an expert on African-American history. During the 1950s, a woman — particularly a black woman — was not expected to be forceful. An angry black woman would be seen negatively by the public. If Parks had let all her feelings out she might have hurt her cause, so she tried hard to always seem gentle and ladylike. However, Cannon said, "in this collection, we hear more of that militant voice.”  Cannon said that she believed Parks wanted history to have a fuller picture of her. The papers were maintained as a sort of time capsule, for a day when her more militant side could be understood.  “She held onto them until the end of her life, the most personal of the personal," Canon said. "She wanted us to know the true Rosa Parks.”  **"The Law Is The Law"**  Parks wrote about her experiences growing up in rural Alabama. She recalled her fear as a 6- or 7-year-old, seeing her grandfather stand watch with a shotgun to protect their home from the Ku Klux Klan, a racist group responsible for attacks against blacks.  “I wanted to see him kill a Ku Kluxer,” she wrote.  Parks was already an activist by 1955, when she refused to give up her seat on the bus. She had been influenced by her husband, her grandfather and an Alabama group known as the Women’s Political Council.  “I had been pushed around all my life and felt at this moment that I couldn’t take it any more,” she wrote. “When I asked the policeman why we had to be pushed around? He said he didn’t know. ‘The law is the law. You are under arrest.’  “There is just so much hurt, disappointment and oppression one can take,” she wrote.  **She Made A Difference**  Parks' arrest for staying in her bus seat inspired a successful 13-month campaign to end the segregation of Montgomery buses.  Parks, who lost her job after her arrest, moved to Detroit in 1957. In 1965, she began working for Democratic Congressman John Conyers Jr.  In 1996, President Bill Clinton awarded Parks the Presidential Medal of Freedom.  Parks never had children, but later in her life she received birthday cards from students all over the world. Among them was a batch she kept from the Prairie View Intermediate School in Texas, sent in 2000.  “Dear Mrs. Parks,” a student named Zack wrote, “I think what you did for African-Americans is great. Was it scary to go to jail?” | What do you already know about Rosa Parks or civil rights? Write two facts.  Up to this point in the article, how is Rosa Parks described?  Why do you think segregation would cause someone to feel this way?  Why do you think the author chose to include these details? What do they tell you about Parks?  What effect do you think this experience might have on a young child?  What is one reason why the author may have chosen to end the article with this paragraph? |
| **Correcting 5 myths about Rosa Parks and her stand on a Montgomery bus** By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff  02.03.16  Shortly after 5 p.m., on a cool Alabama evening 60 years ago, a 42-year-old woman named Rosa Parks clocked out from her job as a seamstress at the Montgomery Fair Department Store, and walked along Montgomery Street to board the Cleveland Avenue bus.  Around 6 p.m., as she boarded bus No. 2857 to make the 5-mile trek to her apartment, Rosa Parks was about to change the course of the 20th century.  Here are five myths about what happened that first evening of December in 1955. Not The Whites-Only Section 1. Rosa Parks sat in the whites-only section of the bus.  Montgomery, Alabama, municipal buses each had 36 seats. The first 10 were reserved for whites only and the last 10 seats were supposed to be reserved for blacks. The middle 16 seats were first-come, first-served, with the bus driver retaining the authority to rearrange seats so that whites could be given preference.  Parks was sitting in an aisle seat in the front row of this middle section.  2. If Rosa Parks had not moved, a white passenger would not have had a place to sit.  A few minutes later, several white passengers boarded, and driver James E. Blake, 43, noticed a white man standing near the front. He asked the four black passengers in Parks' row to move to the back.  When they did not respond, Blake got out of his seat and yelled: "Y'all better make it light on yourselves and let me have those seats." Three of the black passengers moved to the back of the bus, but Parks refused to get up. She moved from the aisle to the window seat, making room for the white passenger to sit in any of the three seats in her row. Confrontational Bus Driver The bus driver asked: "Are you going to stand up?" and Parks looked him in the eye and responded with a quiet but firm "No." She explained that she had gotten on board first, that she paid the same fare as the others, and that she wasn't sitting in the white section.  She did not think it was fair that she had to stand for someone else who had arrived after her to sit and said that she was not violating the city law.  "Well," Blake responded, "I'm going to have you arrested, " and Parks said, in a firm, quiet voice, "You may do that."  Blake then radioed the police, who sent officers F.B. Day and D.W. Mixon, who peacefully arrested Parks. They drove her to the city jail, booked her and held her in a dank and airless cell. NAACP Leader To The Rescue Parks's boss and friend, E.D. Nixon, bailed her out that evening. He was the president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), a group fighting for black people to be treated fairly.  3. This was Rosa Parks's first conflict with that bus driver.  If Parks had been paying attention, she never would have entered the bus driven by the tall, blond, 43-year-old Blake. He had a reputation for insulting blacks, especially black women. A dozen years earlier, Blake had tried to make Parks exit and re-enter his bus through the crowded rear entrance, after she had already boarded his bus in the front. When Parks refused, Blake grabbed her sleeve to push her off the bus. As she dropped her purse on purpose and sat down in the white section to get it, she warned him: "I will get off. ... You better not hit me."  For the next 12 years Parks avoided riding on Blake's bus on purpose, walking whenever she could, despite her long-term joint pain. But on Dec. 1, 1955, she absentmindedly boarded the bus driven by Blake. It proved to be a mistake that catapulted her into the history books. Do Not Blame It On Fatigue 4. Rosa Parks refused to stand up because she was tired.  Parks sought to set the record straight: "People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true. I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I was at the end of a working day. ... No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in." She later said she couldn't have lived with herself if she had given in and stood up.  5. Rosa Parks was the first black woman to exercise civil disobedience on a Montgomery bus.  Nearly nine months before Rosa Parks' famous arrest, 15-year-old Claudette Colvin was arrested on a Montgomery bus for refusing to yield her seat to a white passenger. Parks served as an activist and secretary with the Montgomery NAACP, which sought to challenge Jim Crow laws whenever they could, and Colvin's actions inspired Parks. When a Christian woman of Parks' stature and modesty was unjustly treated, the leaders, including a 26-year-old Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., saw an opportunity and made their move. Pushing Back Against Oppression "There comes a time when people get tired of being trampled over by the iron feet of oppression," King explained at the mass meeting held at Holt Street Baptist Church on the first day of the bus ban.  Dec. 1, 1955, more than 60 years ago, Rosa Parks determined that there did indeed come a time. The rest, as they say, is history. | What is something that is a question you have?  Would you do what Rosa Parks did? Why?  What does the word light mean in this sentence? How do you know?  What do you believe the word dank means in this sentence? How does it affect the reader's perception of the jail cell?  Explain why this would have stopped Rosa Parks from getting on the bus in the first place  What does this quote tell you about Rosa Parks?  What does the line "There comes a time when people get tired of being trampled over by the iron feet of oppression," mean? |