Transforming Monument

Google slide [link here](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1nbnvBt0hMyXGMqL-yNxm9KoVxlN07GLoz0RStsjKPkE/edit#slide=id.p)

Group:

Notes/ideas:

sources:

<https://exhibits.library.villanova.edu/institute-colored-youth/community-moments/equal-rights-league-and-suffrage>

<https://time.com/5869866/replace-confederate-statues/> x

[https://www.sc.edu/uofsc/posts/2020/08/08\_conversation\_confederate\_statues.php#.YWca NZ7](https://www.sc.edu/uofsc/posts/2020/08/08_conversation_confederate_statues.php#.YWciSNQZ7mU)

<https://www.fastcompany.com/90520696/racist-monuments-are-coming-down-all-over-the-u-s-what-should-replace-them>

<https://theconversation.com/what-should-replace-confederate-statues-144174>

Dessa Notes:

| Source: <https://history.house.gov/People/Listing/R/REVELS,-Hiram-Rhodes-(R000166)/>  - Dessa  Answers to the questions based on research:  <https://virginiahistory.org/learn/freedmens-schools>  Education is one of the most important aspects of a community and society since it shapes how people act and the opportunities they are provided. Education leads to knowledge, which leads to power. And since African American people, especially former slaves were not given the option to receive an education they were considered “lower then” and ” beneath'' others. But when these oppressed neglected peoples were finally able to learn, they were able to gain positions of power and spread influence and awareness. In the time of reconstruction, when slavery was newly abolished enducation was the most important comataty for former slaves. It provided them with job opportunities and a stronger hold on society. They were no longer kept ignorant and better able to understand and function in the world. We wanted to create a monument that emphasized the importance of education, and recognize the struggle people from the past and what they were able to accomplish and overcome with the little they were given. We thought that this idea was especially important in terms of government positions. Since, that was the highest power over the country at the time. And it's important to think about and remember the people who were able to gain enough recognition to be placed into these positions. For this reason, we picked hiram rhodes revels as a main subject for our monument. And the overall theme being the Freedmen's schools, built throughout the country. The combination of things provided our monument with specific recognition as well as a more widespread idea that is still in effect today. A connection between the past and the present, today we have public schools across the county, a resource that we often take for granted. Everyone in theory is offered the right to an education, and that is something to honor and commensurate, and to do that we need to understand its history and the importance of the freedmen's schools and the people who contributed to creating and passing the freedmen's bureau. So, our overall message is one of equality in education, and the importance of distribution of power. Also to look back on our history and appreciate what we have. | the first African American to serve in the U.S. Congress  Was a preacher for many years  Filled senate seat in 1870  Born in north carolina  Was a freeman his entire life ( parent to)  attended a school taught by a free black woman- educating black children was illegal  traveled throughout the country, carrying out religious work and educating fellow African Americans in Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee.  imprisoned for preaching to the black community in 1854  Tried to preach for freedom / spread his message  He served as the chaplain for a black regiment in campaigns in Vicksburg and Jackson, Mississippi. In 1863,  St. Louis, where he established a freedmen’s school.( education was important )  Before the Civil War, fewer than 1,000 free black Mississippians had access to a basic education.  Blck people excluded from an education. It was even illegal in many places. After the civil war schools were built.   * What message do you want the memorial/monument to convey? (2-3 paragraphs)   “many Black people became literate. During the Civil War, northern missionaries and Black teachers established schools in Union-occupied territories”  one of the earliest Black schools was established in the eastern end of the city at Chimborazo in June 1865, on the site where the large Confederate hospital had operated just a few weeks before |
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Ana’s Notes: Hiram Rhodes Revels’ Achievements

First source: <https://www.knox.edu/library/special-collections-and-archives/college-archives/knox-college-history/hiram-rhodes-revels>

* Graduate from Knoxford college in 1856-1857
* Was put in jail for protesting for people of color to be treated as equals
* During the Civil War he helped create the first two black militias to help the US Army
* 1868 he joined the government
* 1870 he was elected senator of mississippi
* He forgave government officials who forgot to up keep the rights of all men are created equals
* White leaders started removing the right to vote for people of color causing Hiram’s term to end.
* Hiram became founding president to a school called Alcorn college
* Died in 1901

Second source:

<https://blogs.loc.gov/headlinesandheroes/2020/02/hiram-revels-first-african-american-senator/>

* February 23, 1870 Hiram runs for senator and gets elected
* Born in september 1827
* His parents where free from slavery
* Hiram is a mix of African and Crotan Indian
* Before becoming a senator he was an educator, minister, and helped in the army during Civil War
* He sat in the same seat mississippi's last senator Jeferson Davis sat and got criticism for it.
* He received threats and racist comments in the news paper
* For most of hiram's life he wasn’t considered an american citizen because of his skin color. He was almost removed from office because it was required to be an american citizen for at least 9 years even though he lived in the US for his entire life.
* Hiram was allowed to stay in his office after the other government officials voted for him to stay.
* Many people who didn’t belive people of color should be in office tried to spread false rumors about him having a scandalous past while others believed he was a good politician.
* He left office and became president of Mississippi's Alcorn State University.

Skye’s notes:

““I want to see site-specific calls for art that puts ‘the public’ in public art; art that honors marginalized people’s stories that have been ignored and left out in the midst of change,” writes Vinnie Bagwell, the artist and sculptor Johnson mentioned.”

***Create a plan for your monument***

Write: Your plan should answer the following questions:

* What message do you want the memorial/monument to convey? (2-3 paragraphs)

Dessa-

Education is one of the most important aspects of a community and society since it shapes how people act and the opportunities they are provided. Education leads to knowledge, which leads to power. And since African American people, especially former slaves were not given the option to receive an education they were considered “lower then” and ” beneath'' others. But when these oppressed neglected peoples were finally able to learn, they were able to gain positions of power and spread influence and awareness. In the time of reconstruction, when slavery was newly abolished enducation was the most important comataty for former slaves. It provided them with job opportunities and a stronger hold on society. They were no longer kept ignorant and better able to understand and function in the world. We wanted to create a monument that emphasized the importance of education, and recognize the struggle people from the past and what they were able to accomplish and overcome with the little they were given. We thought that this idea was especially important in terms of government positions. Since, that was the highest power over the country at the time. And it's important to think about and remember the people who were able to gain enough recognition to be placed into these positions. For this reason, we picked hiram rhodes revels as a main subject for our monument. And the overall theme being the Freedmen's schools, built throughout the country. The combination of things provided our monument with specific recognition as well as a more widespread idea that is still in effect today. A connection between the past and the present, today we have public schools across the county, a resource that we often take for granted. Everyone in theory is offered the right to an education, and that is something to honor and commensurate, and to do that we need to understand its history and the importance of the freedmen's schools and the people who contributed to creating and passing the freedmen's bureau. So, our overall message is one of equality in education, and the importance of distribution of power. Also to look back on our history and appreciate what we have.

* Who is the audience for the memorial? How will the monument communicate your ideas? (2-3 paragraphs)

The audience for our monument is everyone. The purpose is to educate people on African American people in history who haven’t been given recognition. The monument is going to be a library, so the books inside will reflect our purpose.

Because this monument will be replacing statues of confederate soldiers, the purpose is t0 increase representation for african americans, and provide education for everyone.

* What specific materials, forms, imagery, or words will it include? (1-2 paragraphs)
* This monument is not so much as symbolic as it is a practical representation of what values hiram stood for: education for all. As many know, education has been one way used to oppress black people by teaching biased stories and teaching that the very people who enslaved them were heroes to be revered. Books in the library will obviously center black voices and work on teaching a more accurate view of the reconstruction era. Classes/book readings for all ages and tours that teach about the life of Hiram and his achievements though classes/book readings will center a variety of black voices. The key focus will be unbiased, accurate representations of history that focuses on the unheard voices of history.

Create: After you’ve thought it over, create something—it can be as simple as a sketch or as complex as a model made from physical materials. Finally, give your memorial a title and write a brief description, or artist’s statement, to accompany it.

Present: Present your plan and model of your proposed monument. (Use a Google Slide Deck)

Written Plan and Presentation Due: Wednesday, October 20th