Handout für die Präsentation des W-Seminars

**The influence of music during the civil rights movement**

Structure:

* Main goal and other goals
  + Revisit the role music had during the civil rights movement
  + Music as a means of demonstration
  + Media coverage of the civil rights movement
  + Most well-known liberation song
  + People performing the liberation songs
* Results of the research
* Conclusion

Main goal:

The main goal for this term paper is to revisit the civil rights movement and examine the influence music had during that time and concentrate on the role it had during protests, its media coverage, the most well-known liberation song during that time as well as the people performing the songs.

Music as a means of demonstration:

* Slaves used voice to communicate and address issues during the 18th and 19th century
* Early stages of protest songs often had religious connotations and dealt with various topics
* “Soul” gained traction as a genre representing pride, hope and love
* Music was commonplace during protest and gave the members pride in their actions and a voice
* Support from the church by providing vocal leadership during protests

Media coverage of the civil rights movement:

* Famous musicians engaged in the civil rights movement because of its media coverage
* Ed Sullivan Show allowed black people to perform in front of a bigger audience
* Helped spread the civil rights movement
* Diana Ross only gained popularity because of the Ed Sullivan Show
* The show exposed America to the civil rights movement and its cause

Most well-known liberation song:

* Great example of the dynamic principles of the movement is the song “We Shall Overcome”
* Started as “I’ll Overcome Someday” in the 18th century
* Got rewritten by African American tobacco laborers during the interwar period
* Song was changed many times to fit various situations

People performing the liberation songs:

* Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
* Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)
* SNCC called “the public face” of the movement
* Went out of their way to cross racial and geographical barriers
* Activists performing at the front lines of the movement were crucial
* Bob Dylan’s “Oxford Town” started a riot ending in casualties

Results of the research:

* Influence of music on its audience is not to be underestimated
* Research revealed the long process it took for African Americans to be able to stand up for themselves
* Would not be able to happen without performers and modern broadcasting devices

Conclusion:

* Liberation songs are an important and powerful part of the movement
* Established new courage and a sense of community
* Maintained hope and faith in the future
* Motivated downtrodden to work toward a better future
* Use of music has not changed much
* Still widely used to address social problems

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