Learning Objectives:

1. Apply the historical thinking skills of sourcing, close reading, contextualizing, and corroborating to a contemporary situation with historical roots.
2. Describe historical strategies used in the African American freedom struggle, and evaluate their potential effectiveness for contemporary social change movements.
3. Describe significant differences and similarities between particular moments in the historical past and today.
4. Apply knowledge about these similarities and differences to formulate contemporary versions of historical strategies for social change.

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| **Activity** | **Points** | **Due Date** | **Where to Turn In** | **Objectives** |
| Readings |  |  |  |  |
| Think about Historical Parallels |  |  |  |  |
| Discussion Forum | 20 | Due by 12/12, 11:59 PM | Discussion Forum | 1,2,3,4 |
| Organizing Strategy Briefs Peer Review | N/A; for your own use | Due by 12/12, 11:59 PM | Discussion Forum | 1,2,3,4 |
| Organizing Strategy Briefs | up to 30 points extra credit | Due by 12/12, 11:59 PM | Assignments | 1,2,3,4 |

**Read this explanation:**

This extra credit assignment has 2 components: a discussion forum and Organizing Strategy Briefs.

* Participation in the Discussion Forum will count to replace one of your lower discussion scores. If you're looking to improve your discussion average, it's a good idea to participate.
* Organizing Strategy Briefs: In these briefs, you'll use your historical knowledge to propose an organizing strategy for activists in Ferguson, Missouri. You may write up to 3 of these. Each brief you write will be eligible for up to 10 points. (That means each brief can raise your final semester average by 1 percentage point.)
  + If you want to do this assignment, [download the Organizing Strategy Brief template](Organizing%20Strategy%20Brief%20Template.docx).
  + Each strategy brief should be NO LONGER THAN 2 SINGLE-SPACED PAGES. (Imagine using it as a handout; it should fit on the front and back of a photocopy.)
  + You may use the Discussion Forum to peer-review one another's work before submitting it to me. Peer reviews will not be formally graded; they are for your own benefit.

**Read:** [see Ferguson\_readings.md]

**Think about Historical Parallels:** [see Ferguson\_readings.md]

**Background about Ferguson:** [see more\_about\_ferguson.md]

**Discussion Forum: Historical Organizing Strategies:**

This discussion forum is designed to prepare you for the extra-credit writing assignments by helping you answer an important question: **Which strategies used by the Black American freedom movement since 1865 are most relevant for organizers today in Ferguson, Missouri, and elsewhere in the US?**

**For your first post,** explain an aspect of the Black American freedom movement that you learned more about from exploring this week’s readings, and answer these two questions:

* How did what you learned change your perspective on civil rights organizing or on strategies for making social change?
* How do you think this aspect of history applies to the political organizing that has happened since the killing of Michael Brown, Jr.?

Give your post a descriptive title which includes one of the following categories:

* Building community organizations
* Economic activism
* Non-violent direct action (public protests and demonstrations)
* Media and public relations
* Working through formal government (voting; litigation to challenge unjust laws)

*(For example: “Economic activism: Don’t Buy Where You Can’t Work”)*

**For your second and third posts,** reply to your classmates according to the following prompts. Be as specific and detailed as possible.

* Historically, why did this strategy work or not work for achieving its goals?
* What would a contemporary version of this same strategy look like? If you know of examples, provide clickable links to news stories or other media about this strategy in action.

**As the discussion evolves,** ask your classmates questions which will help them clarify their ideas. Some bigger questions you may want to explore include:

* In what ways is the current situation in Ferguson, Missouri and other American places a product of history?
* Based on what you know about the civil rights activists of the 1960s, the resistance they faced, and the strategies that worked, what should the #BlackLivesMatter activists do? How does the existence of social media change the publicity and organizing strategies that these activists should use?
* What should they do to build a movement that can be successful over the long run?
* *Responding to the ideas of Mary Dudziak:* Is civil rights protest in the US fundamentally different now because the Cold War is over? Was the threat of global Communism actually good for African-American civil rights?

**Discussion Forum: Peer Review of Strategy Briefs**

Read the [Peer Review General Guide](Peer_Review_General_Guide.pdf) and follow its instructions for posting your Strategy Briefs and reviewing your classmates’ answers.

For each Strategy Brief you write:

* Start a new thread which contains your own work as an attachment. Give it a descriptive title. In the text of your post, write 25-50 words to your reviewers, answering the following question: What specific kinds of advice from your reviewers would be most helpful for you in improving your work?
* Follow the general guidelines for writing peer reviews. Be sure to make use of the [Strategy Brief Peer Review Template](Organizing%20Strategy%20Brief%20PRTemplate.docx) by cutting and pasting it into your review posts.
* Review the work of at least 2 of your classmates, and review your own work. (This means that you should make at least 4 posts total.)

This peer review assignment will not be formally graded; it is purely for your own use. However, to make the most of it, you should:

* Review the work of more than 2 of your classmates.
* For each review you write, notice aspects of their work this author should focus on improving. Read the work of your other classmates, and identify one of your classmates whose answers demonstrate mastery of that skill. When you make suggestions about how to improve, include a recommendation about specific classmates this author could learn each skill from.

**Assemble Your Strategy Briefs:**

After you've revised your Organizing Strategy Briefs and are ready to submit them, you may have more than one. If so, **compile them all into a single file.**Insert page breaks between the briefs so that Brief 1 is on pages 1 and 2; Brief 2 is on pages 3 and 4; and Brief 3 is on pages 5 and 6. Upload them to Turnitin.com using the link below.

**Organizing Strategy Briefs** [set up Turnitin assignment for this.]