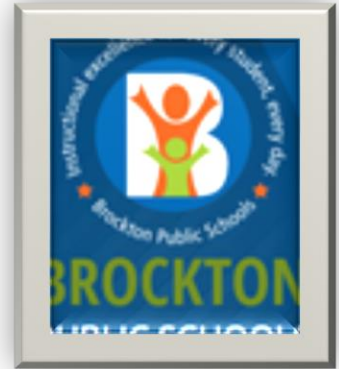


**Social Science Department**  
**Grades 9-12**  
*The Power of Protest*

The past few weeks have been filled with news that can elicit many different emotions in us all. News stories, television reports, and pictures of protests can all bring out many different feelings, especially when those events happen close to home. We thought it was important to pause this week to acknowledge the events impacting our Brockton community, both nationally and locally.



**Part I: *Protests on the National Level***

1. Read Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's speech, "*I Have a Dream.*" While reading, think about the following questions:

- *What issues is King's speech addressing?*
- *What technique is King using to appeal to his audience? How does he convey his message?"*

Current issues surrounding civil rights can be seen in today's society which can include race relations, immigration and transgender rights. Think about the following question:

- *How do you think King would react to the civil rights issues seen today?"*

2. Attached are several articles that explore various current civil rights issues. Choose a speech that resonates with you and reflect upon these questions:

- *How is this issue similar or different from the issue King addressed in his "I have a dream" speech?*
- *What would he say about this issue today? Use evidence from his speech to support your answer.*
- *How would King's message be perceived today in context of this civil rights issue if the speech was given today?*

3. Extension: Pick one of the issues from the Text Set and write the opening 100 words of the speech

## **Part II: Protests in our Local Community**

Last week, there were protests in Brockton, which you may have seen pictures of. Some were peaceful, some not as peaceful. Mayor Sullivan also held a press conference with the superintendent, police, and social justice groups. You may have seen it on the news, or social media, or maybe were even a part of it. Either way, you are living through a monumental historical event like the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

There is a saying “A Picture is Worth 1000 words”. This is to imply that we can learn a great deal of information just from looking at a picture, even with no explanation. This second assignment option revolves around events transpiring in Brockton from the past week and involves community leaders, students, family members, that you may know and see in these pictures.

### **1. Choose 3 pictures and answer the following questions about each:**

- *What is happening in the picture? What do you see?*
- *What is the first thing you notice in the picture? Why do you think this is what you saw first?*
- *How does this picture make you feel? In your opinion, what are the people in the picture feeling? Explain.*
- *What can you learn about the protests from looking at this picture?*

2. **Extension option:** Write a journal entry about how these local protests make you feel and anything you think you will remember about this moment in history year from now.

**Hint:** Write your journal entry to your future self and describe what you know about the protests, the Black Lives Matter Movement, and anything else you’d like to remember in the future.

*\*\*Please remember to reach out to your teachers, administrators, and/or counselors if there is anything you need to discuss. We are all here to help you navigate through this difficult time and offer support in any way possible.*

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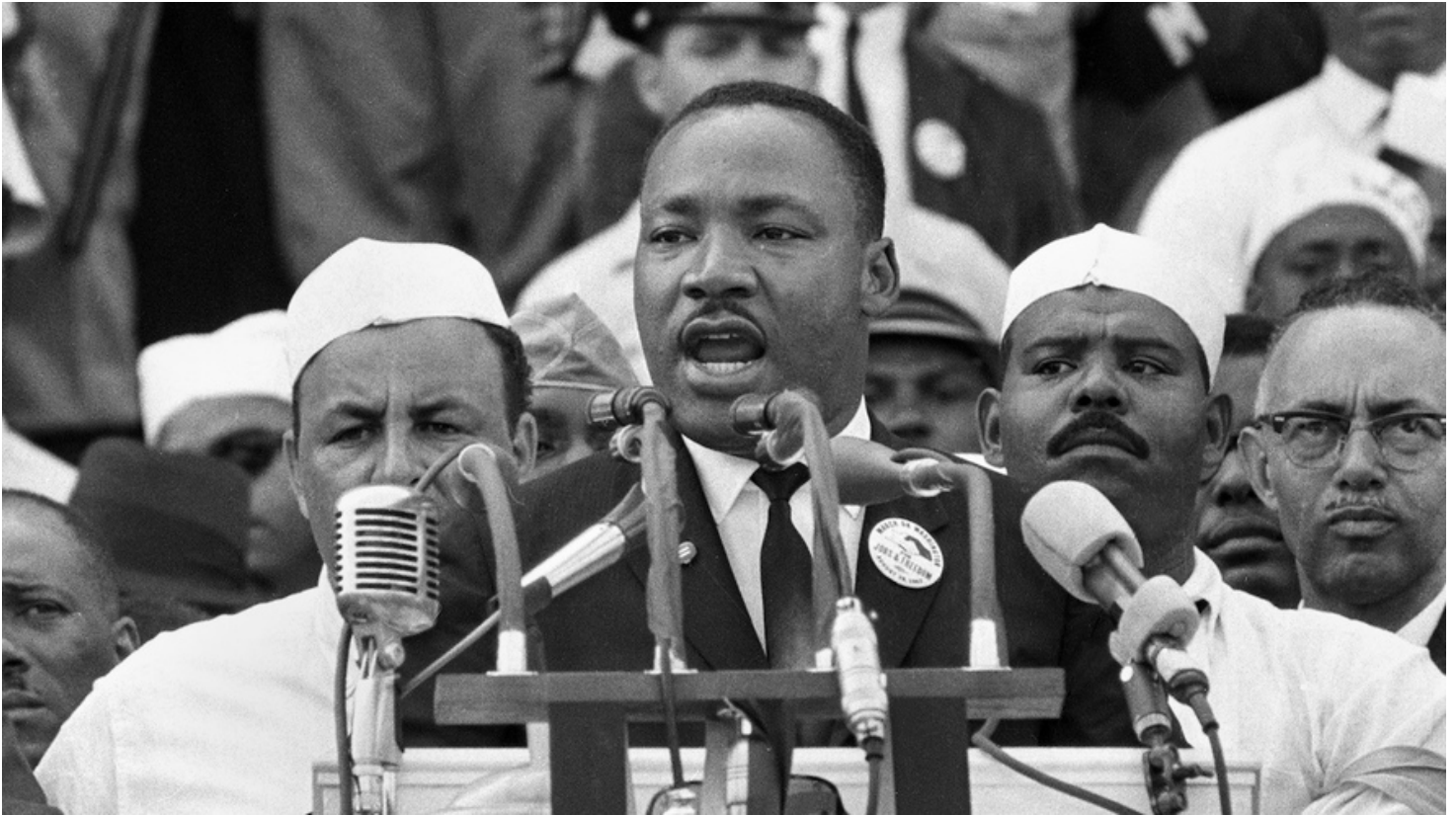
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# Famous Speeches: Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream"

By Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., adapted by Newsela staff on 09.01.18

Word Count 1,789

Level 1010L



On Aug. 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, addresses marchers during his "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. (AP Photo/File)

*Editor's Note: This speech is often thought of as one of the greatest in American history. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave the speech to more than 200,000 civil rights supporters during the March on Washington. It was a march for jobs and freedom. The huge rally was held in support of civil and economic rights for black Americans. The march was an important moment for the civil rights movement and is thought to have helped pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964. In the speech, King begins by talking of President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and continues to describe the rights that black Americans were still not given, even 100 years later.*

I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation.

Five score years ago, a great American president, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This remarkable decree came as a great light of hope to

millions of Negro slaves who had been burned by the flames of injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of slavery.

But 100 years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by handcuffs of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty surrounded by a vast ocean of material wealth. One hundred years later, the Negro is still wasting away in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land.

So we have come here today to dramatize a shameful condition. In a sense we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a check that every American was able to cash. This check was a promise to all men. Yes, black men, as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this check when it comes to her citizens of color. Instead of honoring this promise, America has given the Negro people a bad check. The check which has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is broke and we refuse to believe that there are no funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we have come to cash this check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and justice.

### **"We Seek The Sunlit Path Of Racial Justice"**

We have also come to this holy spot to remind America of the importance of now. This is no time for cooling off or to take the calming drug of going slowly. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark valley of segregation. We seek the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children. It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of the Negro's desire for more will not pass until there is refreshing autumn of freedom and equality.

The year 1963 is not an end. It is but a beginning. Some have hoped that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content. They will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor peace in America until the Negro is given his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation. We seek the bright day when justice emerges.

But there is something that I must say to my people who stand in the warm doorway which leads into the palace of justice. In seeking our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to be changed by physical violence. Again and again we must rise to great heights meeting physical force with soul force. A marvelous new militancy has engulfed the Negro community. This must not lead us to a distrust of all white people. For many of our white brothers, as seen by their presence here today, have come to realize that their future is tied up with our future. They have come to realize that their freedom is most surely bound to our freedom. We



cannot walk alone. As we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back.

There are those who are asking those pledged to civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied. As long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality, we can never be satisfied. As long as our bodies, tired from travel, cannot get rooms in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities, we cannot be satisfied. We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is merely moved from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their pride. We can never be satisfied when we are robbed of our dignity by signs stating "For Whites Only." We cannot be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes there's nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied. We will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

### **"You Have Been The Veterans Of Great Suffering"**

I know that some of you have come here from great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow jail cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of great suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unfair suffering makes one stronger. Go back to Mississippi. Go back to Alabama. Go back to South Carolina. Go back to Georgia. Go back to Louisiana. Go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities. Know that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair.

I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal." I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of cruelty, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today!

I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words that block and try to cancel our rights; one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today!

I have a dream that one day every valley down low shall be exalted and every hill and mountain up high shall be made low. The rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to mold from the mountain of sadness, a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to change the upsetting sounds of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will

be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day. This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring." And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true.

So let freedom ring from the wonderful hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania! Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado! Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California! But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia! Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee! Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

© 1963 *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*; © renewed 1991 *Coretta Scott King*

# Detroit teachers stage massive sickout over ailing condition of schools

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 01.25.16

Word Count 781

Level 1030L



Western International High School teacher Debrah Baskin, 53, and other teachers from Detroit schools protest outside the Cobo Center only hours before President Barack Obama's visit to the auto show, Jan. 20, 2016. Todd McInturf/Detroit News via AP

More than 85 of Detroit, Michigan's approximately 100 public schools were closed Wednesday as teachers staged a sickout. The educators were protesting the system's overcrowded classrooms, broken finances and crumbling buildings.

Teachers say they are fed up with working in schools that are not fit for them or their students. Classrooms are plagued by rats, roaches, mold, ceilings full of holes and unreliable heat. Teachers do not have textbooks or other supplies they need to teach, they say, and they have not had a raise in 10 years.

"We felt it was time to take a stand. No more. Enough is enough," said Marietta Elliott, a special education teacher at Paul Robeson Malcolm X Academy. "We need better working environments for our students to be educated in. We need supplies to be able to adequately educate them." Teachers also want fair pay for the work they do, she added.

Ann Mitchell, administrator of the Detroit Federation of Teachers, said some teachers have 45 kids in a class. A class that size is far over the national average, which ranges from 15 to 23 students per class, depending on grade level.

### **Obama Trip An Opportunity**

A spokeswoman for Detroit Public Schools did not respond to a request for a comment. The school system's Facebook page said that just eight of the system's schools would be open Wednesday.

Wednesday's teacher sickout was the largest in a series this month, and the second to close most of the schools in the 46,000-student system.

Elliott said the protest was planned by a grass-roots group called Detroit Public School Teachers Fight Back. She said hundreds of teachers and supporters showed up to rally Wednesday outside the North American International Auto Show. The site was chosen because President Barack Obama was stopping by to celebrate the resurgence of the nation's car industry.

One of the teachers' key demands is a return to local control over the school system. The system has been under the control of a series of state emergency managers for the last six years. During that time, the system has accumulated a crushing debt of more than half a billion dollars.

### **Manager Draws Anger, Criticism**

The emergency managers were brought in by the state government because the city's school system was deemed to be in crisis. Teachers say the emergency managers have done nothing to help.

"Things have just gone from bad to worse. Each year, each emergency manager, the debt has grown," said Mitchell. "The schools are just totally neglected."

The schools' current emergency manager is Darnell Earley. He has drawn criticism in recent weeks for his previous role as emergency manager of Flint, Michigan, from 2013 until January 2015. It was during that period that Flint began using the Flint River as its drinking water source. The move led to elevated lead levels in drinking water and a public health crisis.

Earley has said that he was not to blame because the decision to switch water sources was made before he took over in Flint.

Teachers were infuriated by comments he made after a Jan. 11 sickout that closed 64 schools. Earley claimed the tactic uses "students as pawns to advance a political position" and is "unethical."

### **Protests Spur Legislation**

Vanessa Dawson, a sixth-grade English teacher at Paul Robeson Malcolm X Academy, referred to Earley's remarks angrily. "Calling it unethical, knowing what he's done in Flint and the condition of our schools, it was the straw that broke everything," she said.

"This was drastic what we did, in terms of taking off, but drastic times call for drastic measures," Dawson said. "At this point someone had to hear what we were saying."

The teachers' Jan. 11 sickout drew national media attention and responses from state and local lawmakers. Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, who toured several schools, declared that conditions in some of them "break your heart" and said that city officials will inspect every building by April. Duggan also established a way for parents, teachers and students to report unsafe and unhealthy conditions in schools.

New state legislation to be introduced next week would attempt to deal with Detroit schools' financial crisis by splitting the district into two. The current school system would be tasked with paying off its debt, while a new district would actually operate the schools. It would be run by a school board whose members would be appointed by the governor and the mayor.

Governor Rick Snyder urged lawmakers to act quickly to address the schools crisis in his State of the State address on Tuesday. "The Detroit Public Schools are in a crisis," he said. "Too many schools are failing at their central task."



# John Lewis blends '60s tactics, social media in new chapter of activism

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 06.28.16

Word Count 785

Level 940L



Representatives Elizabeth Esty and John Lewis occupy the House floor during a sit in. Rep. Etsy/Twitter

The first time John Lewis staged a sit-in, he was a young leader in the civil rights movement.

Lewis learned from Martin Luther King Jr. and was head of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. In Alabama, he marched from Selma to Montgomery.

Lewis is now a congressman from Georgia. Today, many people post catchy phrases online instead of going to protests. At age 76, Lewis is fusing the old with the new to educate young people about making change. He uses platforms they understand like social media and comic books.

Lewis' Twitter and Facebook timelines are filled with photographs of civil rights leaders that he worked alongside more than 50 years ago. His posts receive thousands of likes, shares and comments.

## "Good Trouble"

Along with each photo, Lewis often posts the phrase "good trouble."

The congressman said he was getting into good trouble on Wednesday when he and nearly 100 other Democratic lawmakers held a sit-in at the U.S. House of Representatives. They wore rainbow ribbons for the 49 victims of the Orlando, Florida, mass shooting. The shooting sparked calls for new gun control laws by Democratic lawmakers. Led by Lewis, the lawmakers sat shoulder to shoulder for 16 hours on the House floor. The group expanded with each passing hour and they broadcasted themselves live on the internet.

Lewis began the sit-in with a rousing speech.

"There comes a time when you have to say something, when you have to make a little noise, when you have to move your feet," Lewis said. "The time to act is now."

He said the sit-in made him feel like he was reliving his life.

### **House Goes Home But Protesters Stay**

The event appeared to end early Thursday morning. House Speaker Paul Ryan, a Republican, called the sit-in a stunt to get attention. Unlike Democrats, Republicans do not think there should be new laws to try to stop gun violence. The House, which is made up of mostly Republican lawmakers, voted to go home until after the July Fourth holiday. However, some Democratic lawmakers were still on the House floor at sunrise on Thursday. They vowed to continue their effort to force votes on gun-control measures.

Lewis thanked his fellow occupiers for getting into good trouble.

The hashtag "good trouble" spread rapidly on Twitter during the sit-in, as people used it to show their support. The tweets praised the way Lewis and others blended new technology with nonviolent protest. Sit-ins are a peaceful political tactic that are a sacred part of American history.

Lewis was saying "good trouble" long before hashtags were a thing.

### **Trying To Make The World A Better Place**

Growing up in Alabama, Lewis would ask his parents about signs designating bathrooms and drinking fountains as for "whites only." His parents said that that was the way it was and told him not to get into trouble.

However, Lewis was also listening to civil rights activists.

Lewis said Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks inspired him to get into good trouble. He said that he hoped young people would get into good trouble, to make the country and the world a better place.

The 1958 comic book "Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story" inspired Lewis when he was young.

In 2013, Lewis published his own comic book. It was exactly 50 years after the March on Washington, D.C., where Lewis was the youngest speaker and Dr. King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

The book is titled "March: Book One," and it opens with the March on Washington. The book chronicles the death of Emmett Till, lunch counter sit-ins, and church bombings through Lewis'

eyes.

### **Passing History Down Through Comic Books**

He said that he hopes the comic will help young children understand what the civil rights movement was like and what they tried to do. He wants to make it feel real.

Last year, Lewis attended Comic-Con to support "March: Book Two." Many people dressed as comic characters, wearing capes and masks, but Lewis wore a trench coat and backpack. He was dressed as himself in 1965, the year he led 600 marchers peacefully to Selma, Alabama.

At Comic-Con, Lewis led a pack of excited third-graders in a march across the floor. He said that it was a very special moment and that it embodied everything Lewis hoped to accomplish with his comic book.

On Thursday, Lewis linked his march in 1965 with the sit-in on the House floor.

It took the protesters three times to make it from Selma to Montgomery 50 years ago, Lewis said. Today, those trying to make a difference have come a distance, but the fight must continue, he said.

# 49ers fans burn jerseys over player's refusal to stand during anthem

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 09.01.16

Word Count **565**

Level **1080L**



San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick runs with the football during the first half of an NFL preseason game against the Green Bay Packers in Santa Clara, California, August 26, 2016. AP Photo/Tony Avelar

Football player Colin Kaepernick took a stand by refusing to stand as the national anthem played. It was a gesture that brought support for the quarterback even as it prompted protests by San Francisco 49ers fans.

Angry fans were burning their Kaepernick jerseys Saturday after the quarterback made headlines for remaining seated during "The Star-Spangled Banner." The anthem played before the team's preseason game on Friday night.

"He says he's oppressed making \$126 million," Shane White, who says he is a lifelong 49ers fan, wrote in a Facebook post that included video of him torching a jersey while the national anthem is played. "Well, Colin, here's my salute to you."

A fan who calls himself Nate3914 set fire to a Kaepernick jersey and told the quarterback "if you don't love our country, get the [expletive] out of it. You should never play another down in the NFL. Move to Canada."

## "There Are Bodies In The Street"

Kaepernick, as ESPN's Ian O'Connor points out, broke no team or league rule by refusing to stand. A 28-year-old biracial man, Kaepernick was adopted and raised by white parents who emphasized awareness of his cultural background. Kaepernick, who sat back by the water coolers during the playing of the anthem, said he was well aware that there would be repercussions.

"I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color," Kaepernick told NFL Media's Steve Wyche. "To me, this is bigger than football, and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder."

Kaepernick's team spoke of the symbolism of the anthem while also pointing out that Kaepernick's protest was in keeping with "such American principles as freedom of religion and freedom of expression." His coach, Chip Kelly, supported his right to protest.

The NFL, in a statement, said that players are "encouraged but not required" to stand for the anthem. O'Connor, among others, defended Kaepernick, writing: "This is what American servicemen and women have defended here and abroad — Kaepernick's right to sing the national anthem at the top of his lungs, and to refuse to honor it altogether. As long as he's not interfering with his teammates' right to make their own red, white and blue choices, what's the problem here?"

### Former Teammate Is Supportive

Reaction on social media was mixed.

Anquan Boldin, a former teammate of Kaepernick's, stood for the anthem as a member of the Detroit Lions on Saturday night in Baltimore. Boldin's cousin was shot to death by a police officer last year. He told the Detroit Free-Press that he supported Kaepernick's right to make the statement.

"I'm sure he's going to get flak for it, what he did," Boldin said, "but that's the great thing about being in America, you have that option."

Kaepernick emphasized that he had not asked for approval. NFL.com's Mike Garafolo points out that Kaepernick did the same thing in the previous preseason games.

"This is not something that I am going to run by anybody," Kaepernick told Wyche. "I am not looking for approval. I have to stand up for people that are oppressed. If they take football away, my endorsements from me, I know that I stood up for what is right."



# Martin Luther King Jr.'s Last March: The Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike

By National Archives, adapted by Newsela staff on 01.13.17

Word Count 1,020

Level 1280L



U.S. National Guard troops block off Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee, as civil rights marchers wearing placards saying "I AM A MAN" pass by on March 29, 1968. It was the third consecutive march held by the group in as many days. Martin Luther King Jr., who had left town after the first march, would soon return and be assassinated. Photo: Bettmann Collection/Getty Images.

The name of Martin Luther King Jr. is intertwined with the history of the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

King and his followers fought for the equal rights and equal justice that citizens are supposed to be ensured of by the United States Constitution. Their protests include large-scale marches and boycotts, or refusing to use certain businesses or services, like public buses, in order to make a statement.

King, using the methods of civil disobedience and resistance, waged a nonviolent war against the racism and prejudice of local police, mayors, governors, angry citizens and the Ku Klux Klan. The great legal milestones achieved by this movement were the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In the late 1960s, the targets of King's activism were less often the legal and political obstacles to civil rights, and more often the poverty, unemployment, lack of education and blocked avenues of economic opportunity confronting black Americans. Despite increasingly confrontational movements for black power, King steadfastly kept to the principles of nonviolence that had been the foundation of his career. Those principles were put to a severe test in his support of a strike by sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee. This was King's final campaign before his death.

### **Black sanitation workers began a strike**

During a heavy rainstorm in Memphis on February 1, 1968, two black sanitation workers had been crushed to death when the compactor mechanism of a trash truck was accidentally triggered. On the same day in a separate incident also related to bad weather, 22 black sewer workers had been sent home without pay while their white supervisors were retained for the day with pay. About two weeks later, on February 12, more than 1,100 of the roughly 1,300 black sanitation workers began a strike for job safety, better wages and benefits and union recognition. A union is an organization of workers that join together to protect their rights as employees.

Memphis Mayor Henry Loeb was unsympathetic to most of the workers' demands and was especially opposed to the union. Black and white civic groups in Memphis tried to resolve the conflict, but the mayor held firm to his position.

As the strike lengthened, support for the strikers within the black community of Memphis grew. Organizations such as COME (Community on the Move for Equality) established food and clothing banks in churches, took up collections for strikers to pay their rent and mortgages and recruited marchers for demonstrations.

King was invited to participate by the Reverend James Lawson, who was an adviser to the strikers and an experienced trainer of nonviolent resistance.

### **King agreed to lend his support to the sanitation workers**

As head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), King was already involved in other civil rights battles around the country. Still, he agreed to lend his support to the sanitation workers. King spoke at a rally in Memphis on March 18, and promised to lead the large march and work stoppage planned for later in the month.

Unfortunately the demonstration on March 28 turned sour when a group of rowdy students at the tail end of the long parade of demonstrators used the signs they carried to break windows of businesses. People began stealing from these businesses and the march was stopped. About 60 people had been injured, and one 16-year-old African-American, Larry Payne, was shot and killed by a policeman. This episode prompted the city of Memphis to bring a formal complaint in the District Court against King and several other civil rights activists. Mayor Loeb brought in nearly 4,000 National Guard troops and the following day, over 200 striking workers continued their daily march. They carried signs through the streets that read, "I Am A Man."

The outbreak of violence deeply distressed King. A Black Power youth group called the Invaders was accused of starting it. In the next few days, King spoke with leaders of the opposing sides. When assured of their unity and commitment to nonviolence, King came back for another march, at first scheduled for April 5. In the meantime, U.S. District Court Judge Bailey Brown granted the city of Memphis a temporary restraining order against King and his associates.

## **King's "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech**

On April 3, a tired and weary King gave his famous "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech telling the group of striking sanitation workers, "We've got to give ourselves to this struggle until the end. Nothing would be more tragic than to stop at this point in Memphis. We've got to see it through."

Later in the speech he preached about his own mortality, "Like anybody, I would like to live a long life — longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now ... I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land."

The SCLC's planning for a peaceful demonstration intensified. Representatives from the SCLC met with the judge on April 4 and worked out an agreement for the march to proceed on April 8.

## **King was assassinated on April 4, 1968**

But, later on that evening of April 4, 1968, as King stepped out of his motel room to join other activists for dinner, he was assassinated. He was shot by a man named James Earl Ray.

Reverend Lawson made a radio announcement urging calm in Memphis. Mayor Loeb called in the state police and the National Guard and ordered a 7 p.m. curfew. Black and white ministers pleaded with Loeb to give in to the union's demands. The mayor said no. President Lyndon Johnson sent his Undersecretary of Labor, James Reynolds, to negotiate a solution to end the strike.

On April 8, an estimated 42,000 people led by Coretta Scott King, King's wife who was also a civil rights activist, silently marched through Memphis in honor of King. On April 16, the Memphis City Council agreed to recognize the union and guaranteed a better wage for black workers.

# White House reacts to Women's March with silence

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 01.24.17

Word Count 899

Level 1160L



Organizers estimated that a half-million people attended the Women's March on Washington, D.C. Other large women's marches were held in Boston, Massachusetts, Chicago, Illinois, New York City and other U.S. cities, as well as in international cities. Photo by: Amanda Voisard for The Washington Post.

The chanting and cheering could be heard Saturday from the White House lawn. Protest signs in pink and yellow and white could be seen barely a block away from its driveway.

A slow-moving mass of human bodies encircled 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue as close as they could get. But inside the "bubble," as reporters refer to the secure perimeter around the president of the United States, the massive women's march on Washington might as well have been in another city altogether.

On Saturday, President Donald Trump and his aides went about their first full day by getting to know their new workplace and the responsibilities that come with it. Staff members began slowly staking claims to offices. Technicians helped activate phones and computers. New staff members held meetings behind closed doors that less than two days before had belonged to former President Barack Obama's staff members.

## **Trump Plans To Meet With Foreign Leaders**

Trump's aides did not appear to venture out for a look at the marchers beyond the gates. The president, meanwhile, busied himself with a mix of tradition and business. He went to a post-inaugural morning prayer service at Washington National Cathedral. Later, Trump traveled by motorcade to Langley, Virginia, to meet with CIA leaders and deliver remarks to 400 employees there.

Trump also spoke by phone with the leaders of Canada and Mexico and agreed to meet. Aides put the finishing touches on Trump's first meeting with British Prime Minister Theresa May at the White House on Friday. He also plans to meet with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto on January 31.

But Trump and his press team offered no public reaction to the dramatic outpouring of emotion that was happening during his first day on the job. Most of it was in protest of the new administration. It was coming from the hundreds of thousands of demonstrators in Washington's streets and many more across the country.

### **A Single Tweet Referencing Peaceful Protests**

"A fantastic day and evening in Washington D.C.," Trump wrote on Twitter on Saturday morning. He was referring to his inauguration and the parties that followed on the previous day. "Thank you to @FoxNews and so many other news outlets for the GREAT reviews of the speech!"

On Sunday morning, Trump wrote on Twitter, saying: "Peaceful protests are a hallmark of our democracy. Even if I don't always agree, I recognize the rights of people to express their views."

The first days of any administration are a mix of trying to get up to speed and to hit the ground running in a new environment. Rarely, however, has an opening day produced such a mix of activities, like the protests and the Trump family getting settled.

### **Bowling Inside, Marching Outside**

"Family bowling session at The White House," Donald Trump Jr., who does not have an official role in the administration, tweeted in the morning. He added a video of his wife, Vanessa, knocking down 8 out of 10 pins in the White House bowling alley.

The video footage appeared to have been shot on Friday. But the lighthearted tweet of the Trump family was posted as tens of thousands of women in pink hats streamed past the White House for the largest demonstration in Washington in years.

Inside the White House grounds, the driveway outside the West Wing was quiet. Yet beyond the gates, the protest was in full swing, demonstrators moving slowly to encircle the grounds, getting as close as they possibly could.

A handful of workers, on their lunch break, watched the protesters stream by as Secret Service members made sure the crowds did not attempt to breach the barriers. The protesters held signs aimed at Trump's inappropriate comments about women that were revealed during the campaign.

The new president left the White House grounds twice in his motorcade, passing directly by the protesters.



## Press Secretary Does Not Comment On Protesters

As the day wore on, and reports of the protest's larger-than-expected crowds dominated the news, expectations grew in the White House press briefing room over how the media-obsessed Trump team would react.

The White House issued a bulletin announcing that Press Secretary Sean Spicer would make a statement at 4:30 p.m. The press secretary's job is to talk to the media on behalf of President Trump.

Reporters gathered, though many of the 49 seats remained empty on a Saturday afternoon. The appointed time came and went. An hour later, reporters were still waiting. Finally, Spicer emerged. But if reporters expected a reaction to the news of the day, they didn't get it. Instead, the White House spokesman opened by attacking the media for "false reporting" over a mistaken report the day before that Trump had removed a bust of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. from the Oval Office. He moved it to a different part of the room.

Spicer also scolded reporters for their coverage of Trump's inauguration, claiming, as Trump did during his CIA visit, that the media underestimated the size of the crowd on purpose to make Trump look bad. He accused the media of pursuing "false narratives," or fake news stories, about the new president.

When he was done, Spicer gave a summary of Trump's day, then turned and left. He did not respond to shouted questions from reporters about the marchers who still massed on the streets of the nation's capital.

# The 1977 disability rights protest that broke records and changed laws

By Atlas Obscura, adapted by Newsela staff on 04.02.18

Word Count **1,394**

Level **1190L**



Image 1. Sit-in demonstrators Karen Emerson and Chris Brewer of San Francisco, California, rejoice after hearing the news that rights regulations for the disabled had been signed on April 28, 1977, in Washington, D.C. They were among the 125 protesters who occupied the regional HEW office in San Francisco over demands that HEW Secretary Joseph Califano sign the regulations. Photo by: JP/AP

Hundreds of people arrived to the planned protest march in San Francisco on April 5, 1977, their backpacks bulging with food, medication, and basic supplies. Adults, teenagers and parents accompanying their children came from around the Bay Area and from varied backgrounds. Mostly of the people in the crowd were deaf, blind, using wheelchairs, living with mental disabilities, or living with paraplegia and quadriplegia.

In cities across the United States that morning, similarly diverse groups assembled for the same reason: to protest at their regional offices of the federal Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW), as well as the HEW headquarters in Washington, D.C.

## The 504 Sit-In In San Francisco

Most of the protests ended that day as planned. The San Francisco protest did not. After marching past the security guards at the local HEW office without resistance, over 100 protesters unpacked

their knapsacks and began what became known as the 504 Sit-In. The landmark takeover remains the longest non-violent occupation of a U.S. federal building in history, lasting 26 days.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 had included the little-noticed Section 504. The language of the act said that no one with a disability could be excluded from "any program or activity" that received money from the government. Its goal was to give people with disabilities the same access to government services, so they couldn't be discriminated against. However, in order for this law to be fully enforced, it needed to be signed by HEW leader Joseph Califano. Disability rights activists decided to push Califano, newly appointed by President Jimmy Carter, to sign regulations.



If Califano signed, his ruling would carry over to other government groups, including the Department of Transportation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). By 1977, disability rights activists were tired of asking nicely for their civil rights, so they decided to move —into the HEW offices, that is.

### **"No Right To An Education, No Public Transit"**

"At that time in history, there was simply no access — no right to an education, no public transit. You couldn't get into a library or city hall, much less a courtroom," says 504 Sit-In participant and disability rights advocate Corbett Joan O'Toole. She notes that as late as the 1970s, there were no federally regulated social services or agencies for individuals living with disabilities. An individual had to find an in-home helper or interpreter in their own time.

Protesting can be often boring, and extremely uncomfortable physically, even if it's indoors. For many protesters in the San Francisco 504 Sit-In, it was the first time they'd spent any time living and sleeping away from home.

Inside the HEW offices, some people required space for walking aids and wheelchairs. Deaf occupiers needed translators. Protesters with paraplegia and quadriplegia needed assistants to lift and turn them when sleeping and sitting. Over the course of so many weeks with rudimentary accommodations inside an office building, protesters risked their health to achieve their goals, explains Dr. Catherine Kudlick, professor of history and director of the Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability at San Francisco State University. "Some lived with the toll of that for years," she says.

Today, we take for granted that buildings have slopes for people in wheelchairs, or wider doors and lower counters. At this time, the San Francisco Bay Area had a positive reputation in the disability community. It had far-reaching public transit, good weather, and wide, well-maintained sidewalks. This made it a good place for the protest.

O'Toole notes that people with disabilities are accustomed to the type of cooperation needed for this protest, too. The 100-plus occupiers and their attendants made the building their own almost immediately, draping a window air-conditioning unit with a plastic tarp to create a makeshift

refrigerator for medications and using the pay phones to communicate with loved ones and news media on the outside until the FBI cut the lines. There were daily meetings about everything from media strategy to how to respond to a bomb-scare false alarm, in the event the FBI employed tactics to evacuate the building.

### **"Disabled People Are Incredibly Resourceful"**

"Disabled people are incredibly resourceful," O'Toole says. "That is a commonly misunderstood and overlooked part of our history, and it led to the success of 504."

Mostly, the protesters were boosted by the congenial, friendly atmosphere. They played cards to pass the time, and celebrated Passover and Easter. Women took turns washing each other's hair in the bathroom sinks.

The Salvation Army rounded up cots and blankets so protesters wouldn't have to sleep on the floor. Local social-services organizations delivered food.

### **Oakland's Black Panther Party Helps Out**

Oakland's Black Panther Party also played a big part in the protest. Beginning that first week and continuing until the end of the occupation, local Panthers cooked and carried hot meals across the bay to San Francisco every single day.

The support of the Panthers — who spent years fighting for civil rights of African-Americans — spoke to the wide reach of the protest.

Of the approximately 120 protesters, 14 individuals with disabilities and eight attendants were selected to go to Washington, D.C. to attempt to force a meeting with Califano.

FBI agents were guarding the San Francisco building, and they hoped to push out the protesters. The agents said there were bomb threats and that they should evacuate, but no bombs were found. O'Toole says the opposite was true, and once the D.C. group had gone, the San Francisco protesters were wholly focused on holding the building. Without the long sit-in drawing daily news reports, they would have less power to force Califano to sign the regulations.

### **Group Pushes For Changes In Washington, D.C.**

Arriving in D.C. to meet with Califano, the group sang the protest hymn "We Shall Overcome" and forced a dramatic congressional hearing. One of the occupation co-organizers, Judy Heumann, gave an emotional address to the assembled representatives and reporters: "... the outrage of disabled individuals across this country is going to continue. ... There will be more takeovers of buildings until finally maybe you begin to understand our position. We will no longer allow the government to oppress disabled individuals. We want the law enforced."

In the days that followed, the group forged on, trailing President Carter to his church and following Califano until he finally signed the regulations on April 28, 1977.



## Efforts Lead To New Regulations

Under 504, nondiscrimination became a legal, fundamental right. Within months of the sit-in, noticeable changes began to take place in urban landscapes, in university classrooms, in the workplace, and in public spaces including libraries, courtrooms, and public transit. Cities instituted curb cuts from street to sidewalk. Federal buildings made adjustments to become accessible to all, including installing ramps and wider restroom stalls.



Regulations instituted as a result of the success of 504, ushered in a new era of accessibility that led to the passage of Americans With Disabilities Act in 1990.

Protests do not always have a concrete aim, and occupations do not always end in victory. However, every person involved in the 504 occupation was united in a common goal, and they felt that unity felt helped guarantee their success.

"When we left the building, we each individually believed that we had made it happen," explains O'Toole. "That helped carry on so much work in disability rights after 504 because the people inside and outside the building, and in the community at large, felt like we took on the federal government and won. After that, nothing felt like an obstacle."



# Students across the globe skip school to demand climate action

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 09.23.19

Word Count 1,096

Level 1230L



Image 1. Climate protesters demonstrate in London, England, September 20, 2019. Protesters around the world joined rallies calling for action against climate change ahead of a United Nations summit in New York City. Photo by: Frank Augstein/AP Photo

Young people from more than 150 countries skipped school in solidarity on Friday, September 20, as part of another series of global climate protests. They urged world leaders to act more aggressively to combat climate change.

The protests began to unfold in Australia, where an estimated 300,000 young people in the cities of Melbourne, Sydney and elsewhere took to the streets. Similar scenes soon began to unfold in towns and cities across the globe, from small island nations such as Kiribati to booming cities such as Mumbai, India. Protesters gathered in small groups in parts of Africa and in swelling masses in European capitals.

In London, England, thousands marched by the Houses of Parliament. Some held signs saying "Winter is NOT coming" and "I'm taking time out of my lessons to teach you."

Martha Lickman, a 13-year-old Londoner, clutched a sign that read "Oceans are rising and so are we."

"We're doing our bit, eating less meat, using less plastic," she said, "but it's still on the government to do something."

Outside Washington, D.C., students at Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, Maryland, walked out of class. They prepared to meet other protesters near the Capitol building.

### **Will The Demonstrations Affect Change?**

Police escorted students on a 50-minute walk to the nearest Metro station for the ride into the U.S. capital. Maddie Graham, age 16, gripping a red-and-white megaphone, shouted with hundreds of her classmates:

"Whose future?!"

"Our future!"

Despite a monumental turnout that stretched across every continent, it remains unclear whether the high-profile demonstrations can fundamentally alter the global forces contributing to climate change. And if elected leaders can be compelled to make the difficult choices necessary to halt the world's warming. But transformative change is precisely what those behind Friday's marches have demanded. This includes a swift shift away from fossil fuels toward clean energy. It also includes halting deforestation, protecting the world's oceans and embracing more sustainable agriculture.



The strikes came three days before world leaders were set to gather at the United Nations (U.N.) on September 23 for a much-anticipated climate summit. U.N. Secretary General António Guterres has insisted countries vow to reach zero emissions by 2050. The promises could include reduced government funding for fossil fuels, such as oil and coal, and halting construction of coal-fired power plants.

"I told leaders not to come with fancy speeches, but with concrete commitments," Guterres said last week.

The summit will offer a key test of whether the world's nations can actually muster the resolve to slash carbon emissions as rapidly as scientists say is needed to avoid the worst effects of climate change. These are the same nations that came together to sign the Paris Climate Accord in 2015. Carbon dioxide is created by the burning of fossil fuels for energy. Too much can cause Earth's atmosphere to trap more and more heat. The agreement reached by nearly all of the world's countries in Paris, France, aimed to fight global warming by cutting carbon emissions.

### **Youth Demand Urgent Action**

Lurking over the proceedings will be the increasing pressure from a generation of youth demanding that leaders take the problem more seriously — and act more swiftly. The Friday

demonstrations came more than six months after hundreds of thousands of students staged a similar coordinated effort to demand urgent action on climate change.

Among the largest of the protests was likely the one in New York City that was led by 16-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, who testified before U.S. Congress last week that nations must take unheard of actions to cut their carbon emissions in the next 10 years.

"I am submitting this testimony because I don't want you to listen to me," she said. "I want you to listen to the scientists. And I want you to unite behind the science. And then I want you to take real action."

Protesters in climate-conscious Germany planned more than 500 events to mark the global climate strike on Friday. The demonstrations in Germany come as Chancellor Angela Merkel's government faces increasing public pressure to take bold climate action following heat waves and protests dubbed Fridays for Future.

Germany's governing parties were holding a special meeting on Friday to finalize and unveil a new climate protection package.

In Moscow, Russia, Arshak Makichyan, a 24-year-old violinist who says he was inspired by Greta, staged a one-man protest after the government rejected his application to hold a group demonstration, the BBC reported. "I thought climate change was just science, but Greta had the right words to explain why it should worry all of us," he said. Russia, which has been hit hard by climate change, ranks as the world's fourth-largest emitter of greenhouse gases after China, the U.S and India.

### **Teenagers Planned The Strikes**

In Copenhagen, Denmark, several thousand people, most of them high-school-age, gathered on a drizzly Friday in front of the city's grand copper-towered city hall before marching through the medieval old city. People flew Danish flags that were green and white instead of red and white.

"I hope the politicians hear us. They don't really seem to be doing anything," said Albe Gils, age 18, who skipped high school and came with two friends to the protest. "It's important that we talk about it now."

In the U.S., strike organizers expected events in more than 1,100 locations in all 50 states. In San Francisco, California, protesters planned to rally in front of the offices of Bank of America, Amazon and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat from California. In San Juan, Puerto Rico, they were marking the second anniversary of Hurricane Maria — a storm that scientists say was made more destructive by climate change. All of the strikers have expressed support for the Green New Deal in the U.S., a sweeping Democratic proposal to combat global warming.

The strikes were planned largely by teenagers, in between soccer practices and studying for math exams. However, a growing number of adults have begun offering support.

Public schools in New York City and Boston granted students permission to skip school for the strikes. For students in other districts, more than 600 physicians signed a "doctor's note" that reads, "Their absence is necessary because of the climate crisis."

Several businesses, including Ben & Jerry's, Patagonia and the beauty products company Lush, closed their doors in solidarity.



# Primary Source: Images of the protests in Boston, 1770-1774

By Newsela staff on 11.13.19

Word Count **452**

Level **MAX**



Image 1. This is an image of a man being tarred and feathered. Photo from: The Library of Congress.

*Editor's Note: Many historical events leading up to and during the American Revolution occurred in Boston, Massachusetts. At the time, Boston was the capital of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, serving as the political and economic center for the colony.*

## Tarred and Feathered

Unhappy with Great Britain's tax acts and policies on the American colonies, some colonists began targeting tax collectors with violence and abuse. One method of abuse was "tarring and feathering," in which a person would be covered in hot tar and feathers, then paraded around public as a form of humiliation. The victim pictured in this engraving was Boston Commissioner of Customs, John Malcolm, who was tarred and feathered twice.

## The Boston Massacre

This engraving was distributed by Paul Revere, but based off of the work of artist Henry Pelham. The Boston Massacre occurred on March 5, 1770 after several colonists were involved in a street



fight with one British soldier. Tensions between the mob and British soldiers escalated until several of the colonists were shot and killed by the British.



Although the depiction is inaccurate and biased towards the colonists, it was important for swaying public opinion in the colonies against the British. This engraving portrays several real victims of the Massacre, including Crispus Attucks in the lower left side. Crispus was an African American merchant who had escaped from slavery two decades before the incident.

### The Boston Tea Party

The Boston Harbor was also a major trade and transportation port for Great Britain and the colonists. The Sons of Liberty was a secret group of rebels in the American colonies who sought to defeat British economic rule in the colonies. On December 16, 1773, the Sons of Liberty staged a protest against British tea policies. The Tea Act of 1773 limited colonists to purchasing tea exclusive from the East India Tea Company, which was owned by the British. The Sons of Liberty disguised themselves as Native Americans and destroyed chests of British East India Company tea, dumping them into the Boston Harbor.





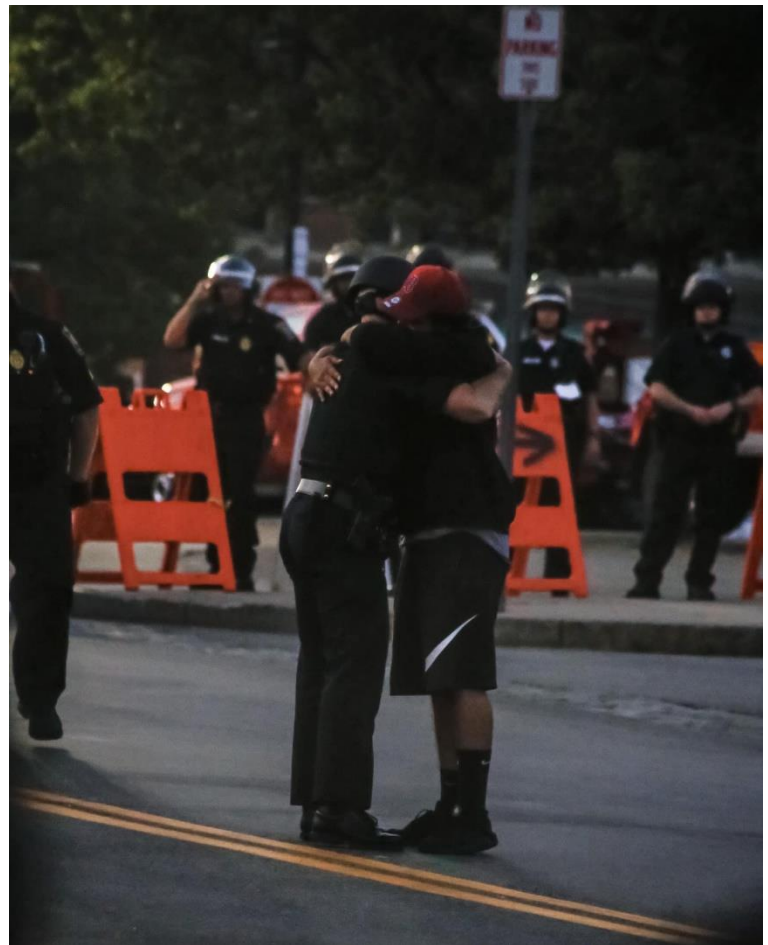
## Part II: Protests in our Local Community

















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