

EXEMPLAR ESSAY (6/6)

638 Words

Before World War II, Black Americans were treated as a lesser class of people in American society. They were subjected to Jim Crow laws in the South, which created racial segregation in public places, such as trains, hotels, and restaurants. They also were not allowed to vote because of literacy tests and poll taxes that were applied against them unfairly. Even in the Armed Forces, Black Americans served in segregated units in World War I and World War II. Women were also treated as a lesser class of people. Although they received voting rights because of the 19th Amendment after World War I, they were still not allowed access to high-paying jobs. Women whose husbands earned a good salary were expected to stay at home and take care of the house and the children. Between 1945 and 1980, movements for social change resulted in women and Black Americans having access to greater education and employment opportunities and gained equal protections from the law. However, some inequalities still existed by 1980 (and arguably still exist even today).

Because of the civil rights movement, Black Americans received voting rights and equal rights to education and employment. In 1948, President Harry Truman integrated the Armed Forces by executive order, which ended segregation in the military. For some, this showed the success of the “Double V” Campaign, in which African Americans supported the American war effort during World War II in hopes of also having a “victory at home” in terms of equal rights. In the 1950s, the Supreme Court handed down the *Brown v. Board* decision, which said that segregation in public schools was a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment. In the 1960s, civil rights acts ended discrimination in both employment and housing, and made it illegal to segregate any public place. James Meredith became the first black student to attend the University of Mississippi, which resulted in protests during the 1960s. By 1980, it was not unusual to see black students attending colleges and universities in the South.

The women’s rights movement focused on equality for women in both society and the workplace. Betty Friedan wrote *The Feminine Mystique* in order to protest the way that women were mostly confined to the home or in jobs that were traditionally for women, such as secretaries and housekeepers. The civil rights acts of the 1960s also protected women from discrimination in the workplace. Between 1945 and 1980, more women gained admission to universities and began to work as doctors, lawyers, and managers. Women also gained access to birth control with Supreme Court decisions, such as *Griswold v. Connecticut*, which kept states from outlawing birth control. Birth control gave women more flexibility to decide whether they wanted to pursue a career and when they wanted to have children.

Even though women and African Americans both gained rights between 1945 and 1980, these gains were not necessarily complete, as there continued to be inequalities. Even after the *Brown v. Board* decision, schools were very slow to integrate. “White flight” from cities to the suburbs created a kind of *de facto* segregation (not by law but in fact) because people generally go to schools that are closer to their homes. Even today, Black Americans have the highest poverty rate of any racial group. They’re twice as likely to be in poverty as whites. Although women have access to high-paying jobs, there are still more men who are CEOs. The Equal Rights Amendment, which would have banned any kind of discrimination based on sex, failed because of a campaign by conservative women.

Between 1945 and 1980, movements for social change resulted in both women and Black Americans gained important rights when it came to education, employment, and equality. However, these gains did not result in complete equality, as inequalities have continued in the period after 1980.

ABOVE-AVERAGE ESSAY (4/6)

316 Words

Between 1945 and 1980, movements for social change resulted in greater access to employment and education, as well as equal rights, for African Americans and women in the United States.

The African American civil rights movement had the goal of ending segregation (separation of races) in public spaces, such as schools and restaurants, and having equal access to voting and employment. The movement accomplished its goals through the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination in employment based on race, sex, and other conditions. Because of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, it was no longer possible for an employer to deny someone a job just because they were black. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 banned states from keeping black Americans from voting because of race. It gave the federal government power to monitor state elections and to stop states with histories of discrimination from changing their election laws to disadvantage minorities. After *Brown v. Board of Education*, black children could attend the same schools as white children.

The women’s rights movement also produced some gains that gave women equal rights to employment and access to birth control. After World War II, it was rare for women to have high-status jobs like doctors, lawyers, and college professors. Betty Friedan wrote *The Feminine Mystique* in order to protest the way that women were forced to either work “women’s jobs” (such as teachers and secretaries) or stay at home and be housewives. By the 1970s, more women were seen in universities, medical schools, and law schools. The *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision guaranteed women’s access to abortions and kept states from restricting access.

Between 1945 and 1980, rights movements resulted in increased employment for both women and African Americans, the end of racial segregation, and access to birth control and abortion for women.

CONTEXTUALIZATION	0	<i>This essay does not make any visible attempt at contextualization.</i>
THESIS	1	<i>Thesis makes a clear and defensible claim supported by valid lines of reasoning.</i>
EVIDENCE I	1	<i>More than two pieces of specific and relevant evidence are presented.</i>
EVIDENCE II	1	<i>Specific and relevant evidence supports claims made in topic sentences.</i>
REASONING	1	<i>Cause and effects of legislation and court decisions are specifically noted.</i>
COMPLEXITY	0	<i>The essay does not demonstrate a complex understanding.</i>
TOTAL	4	<i>The essay could be improved by contextualizing and complex argumentation.</i>

BELOW-AVERAGE ESSAY (2/6)

145 Words

Before the Civil Rights movement, Black Americans in the South were mistreated and lived under segregation. They were not able to ride in the same railroad cars with white people. The Grandfather Clause and literacy tests kept Black people from voting so that they could not have equal rights. Lynching was also a problem. Because of the Civil Rights movement, Black Americans were able to go to schools with white children, vote in elections, and had better access to the justice system.

Martin Luther King gave the I Have a Dream Speech against racial segregation. Rosa Parks refused to give her seat to a white person on the bus. Some reformers did sit-ins where they would go into stores that were segregated and get arrested for being there. Dr. King told his followers to practice civil disobedience, which meant that they could not be violent.

CONTEXTUALIZATION	1	<i>The essay begins with contextualizing evidence concerning segregation, etc.</i>
THESIS	1	<i>Thesis makes a clear and defensible claim supported by valid lines of reasoning.</i>
EVIDENCE I	0	<i>None of the evidence presented focuses on the <u>effects</u> of the movements.</i>
EVIDENCE II	0	<i>Evidence I is not earned, which makes this essay ineligible for Evidence II.</i>
REASONING	0	<i>No historical reasoning is applied in the essay.</i>
COMPLEXITY	0	<i>The essay does not demonstrate a complex understanding.</i>
TOTAL	2	<i>The essay would benefit from a clear thesis and an argumentative structure.</i>