

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Enactment of the 1964 Civil Rights Bill

**Directions:** *The scrambled sentences below can be rearranged to form a four-paragraph essay on the enactment of the 1964 Civil Rights Bill. Use the flow chart on how a bill becomes a law and your textbook to help you put the sentences in sequence. You may find it helpful to begin by marking each statement I, S, H, or P to indicate whether it goes in the introduction, paragraph two on the Senate, paragraph three on the House of Representatives, or the conclusion on presidential action.*

1. With the Civil Rights Bill in effect, the federal government now had the right to sue for school desegregation, enforce voting rights, protect minorities from job discrimination, and guarantee access for all races to all public accommodations and public facilities.
2. The full Judiciary Committee then studied the bill for several weeks before recommending its passage.
3. During the next eighty-three days, nineteen senators from the Deep South organized a filibuster to delay and, they hoped, block passage of the bill.
4. Late in June a bipartisan coalition of the Rules Committee wrested control of the bill from the conservative chairman, Howard W. Smith from Virginia, and approved a resolution calling for House acceptance of the amended Senate bill.
5. In a historic ceremony, President Lyndon Johnson signed the bill a few hours after its passage by the House of Representatives and urged the American people “to join in the effort to bring justice and hope to all our people.”
6. As a result, President John F. Kennedy introduced a strong civil rights bill into both Houses of Congress on June 19, 1963 because, he said, “It is right.”
7. Meanwhile, in the House of Representatives, the Speaker had begun action on the bill by referring it to the sympathetic Judiciary Committee.
8. In order to avoid further delays in enacting a civil rights law, the House of Representatives passed the Senate version of the bill on July 2, 1964.
9. For the first time in American history, the Senate, on June 10, voted cloture on a civil rights bill and thus set the stage for the passage of the bill.
10. The Senate Commerce Committee recommended approval of the bill on February 10, 1964.

- 11.** Senate passage of the bipartisan substitute bill on June 17 was then almost anticlimactic.
- 12.** In the Spring of 1963, the police use of dogs and fire hoses to quell peaceful civil rights demonstrations in Birmingham, Alabama focused national attention on the need for new civil rights legislation.
- 13.** In February 1964 the Senate voted fifty-four to thirty-seven to put the House-passed version of the bill on the Senate calendar, rather than refer it to the southern-dominated Judiciary Committee.
- 14.** The House Rules Committee cleared the bill for House debate on January 30, and floor action began on February 10, 1964.
- 15.** To bring a halt to the filibuster, Senate leaders agreed to eliminate passages the southern Democrats found most obnoxious.
- 16.** After nine days of debate, the House passed the bill, 290 to 130 in a roll call vote.
- 17.** Before recommending passage of an amended version of the bill, the Senate subcommittee heard the expert testimony of forty witnesses and read the written testimony of the governors of each state and many law school professors.
- 18.** The vice president referred the bill to the liberal-dominated Committee on Commerce.
- 19.** The Judiciary Subcommittee #5 met in executive session for seventeen days to consider 172 separate civil rights bills and review 2, 649 pages of testimony from earlier hearings before it approved an amended civil rights bill.