

# **Separate But Equal:** Brown v. Board of Education and Desegregation Debate

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Senior Division  
Group Website  
Student-composed words: 1200  
Multimedia: 3:00 minutes  
Process Paper Words: 500

Due to the rising prevalence of the BLM movement, we began to think about the civil rights movement and its impact on our lives as people of color. Through our interest in the topic and how it related to us, we were led to the most prevalent thing in our lives as students: education. If the NAACP hadn't won the debate over desegregation, we wouldn't have access to the same educational resources as white students. We were eager to learn more about the landmark case that had a tangible impact on our lives. Through our preliminary research, we learned about the unique debate strategies and the diplomacy Judge Warren utilized to organize the verdict. Intrigued, we delved into the intricate debate and diplomacy used to achieve integration in America's schools.

We began our research by scouring for secondary sources that discussed the overall case. From this, we gained a holistic understanding of the topic. We used books and websites that provided in depth analysis of this case. From there, we moved on to reading several transcripts of the court cases, newspapers reporting on the case progressions, and delving into the social science studies and experiments that were used to support the NAACP's argument. We utilized several historical archives that had collections dedicated to our topic. From our research, we were able to gather a plethora of impactful quotes, photos, and videos.

We chose the website category because we felt that it was the best way to showcase the several quotes, images, and videos we had found. We mapped out how we would format our website and display the several forms of media we had collected. After creating our website map, we started to craft the website. The civil rights movement was well documented, which aided us in our website creation. We included several quotes and videos to bring our website to life. We used them to add depth and character to our composed words.

Brown v. Board of Education challenged the “separate but equal” doctrine established by the failure of the Plessy v. Ferguson case. The NAACP filed multiple cases, which failed on a district level, to build their debate against the precedent. In the cases, they utilized a unique legal strategy that used social science to support their argument, as opposed to relying on court precedent. Judge Warren used diplomatic tactics to achieve a unanimous vote against school segregation. The combination of debate and diplomacy were integral to the success of the case. The consequences of the case changed the education and opportunities available to minorities forever.

The significance of this case is still seen today. Brown v. Board of Education facilitated integration in America. Though there were failures, there was also success. It opened the school doors to students of all races, giving them the opportunity to succeed in school and continue performing just as well as their white counterparts. Additionally, it served as inspiration that disproved racist ideals. Today, *Brown* serves as a hallmark, promising equal education.