Name:

John F. Kennedy Library Field Trip Preparation (22 points)

***John F. Kennedy was President of the United States from January 1961 to November 1963. Though he was only President for a short time, it was a period in this country of intense racial struggle and strife. In our upcoming visit to the JFK Library, we will have the opportunity to see primary source material from that time in history. The sources give us a real sense of how Kennedy dealt with such problems and the role the Federal government played in the fight for equality.***

Please go to the following website:

<https://civilrights.jfklibrary.org/for-students.html>

**Directions**:  *In this Webquest, you will be directed to a number of different parts of this website. There are 7 tabs across the top of the website. You will only be focusing on material in 2 of these tabs.*

**The Right to Vote in Mississippi**

**“State of the State”**

1. On July 12, 1961, President Kennedy met with NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) leaders in the Oval Office of the White House. How did he respond to those leaders saying that they wanted Kennedy to push Congress to pass new laws to help the fight for civil rights?

1. A Ruleville, Mississippi resident wrote a letter to President Kennedy in September 1962 about the continued struggle for African-Americans to register to vote. According to McLaurin’s letter, what was one economic reason why they would be so hesitant to try to register?

1. Watch the video clip, “Anti-Negro Terrorism.” According to this clip, were civil rights’ activists satisfied at that point (September 1962) with the work by President Kennedy and the Federal government with regards to helping African Americans in the South register to vote?  Why or why not?

1. Civil Rights activist A. Phillip Randolph sent a telegram (see “Need Protection Now”) to President Kennedy in March 1963.  According to the telegram, what happened to the 120 African-Americans who peacefully assembled and marched to the courthouse in Greenwood, Mississippi to try to register to vote?

**“The Administration’s Approach”**

1. Click on the black and white photograph, “Civil Rights Commissioners.” What was the point of this group?

Before proceeding to the next question, please visit the website below to find out more about Medgar Evers.

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/medgar-evers-assassinated>

**“Murder of Medgar Evers”**

1. Upon the death Medgar Evers, President Kennedy received many letters from Americans with their reactions and suggestions.  Choose any one letter from this section that you read, and comment on the author’s intention for writing to the President. (Make sure you include the writer’s name.)

**The Integration of the University of Alabama**

**“On the Way to School”**

1. (Calling for Support) In his May 1963 memo regarding the admission of two African American students to the University of Alabama, what does Attorney General Robert Kennedy say Governor Wallace intends to do?  What does Kennedy believe Wallace’s actions will result in?

**“Alabama vs. United States”**

1. Click on “Kennedy’s Game Plan” and either watch the video or read the transcript. How does President Kennedy respond to the idea of using Federal Marshals at the University if Wallace intends to block the integration of the University?

**“The Showdown”**

1. (Executive order 11111).  What action is President Kennedy taking in Executive order 11111?

**“Public Opinion”**

1. & 11. Read the two letters written to Kennedy after the integration of the University of Alabama.

(*To Kennedy from* ***Debbie Terrell***). How does Debbie Terrell feel about Kennedy’s involvement in the integration of the University of Alabama?

(*To Kennedy from* ***Arthur Wiesenberger***) What does Wiesenberger propose Kennedy do?  What do these two letters demonstrate about Americans’ attitudes about race at this time in history?