

Name _____ Class pd. _____ Date _____ Score _____

Research Topics

Directions: Research your assigned area, and prepare for classroom discussion. Record important facts, as well as people's attitudes. Then organize your content.

Topic 1: Booker T. Washington

Booker T. Washington is frequently mentioned in Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*.

Investigate and report on this man. Who was he, and for what did he stand? How did he view assimilation? How did his contemporaries view him? How is he remembered today?

Topic 2: The Scottsboro Trials

One of the most famous court cases in twentieth-century America occurred in Alabama in the 1930s. It involved the Scottsboro Boys. Research this case, and discover the lasting impact it had not only on America's judicial system, but also on the American psyche as a whole. Does modern society still feel the effects of the Scottsboro Trials?

Topic 3: Adam Clayton Powell Jr.

Who was Adam Clayton Powell Jr.? Discover this man's significance to American life. How did he view assimilation? What lasting impact did he make on America's conscience?

Topic 4: The 1943 Harlem Riots

Ralph Ellison was inspired by events that took place in Harlem in 1943. Research the riots of this time period. Were there any casualties, and how did society change as a result?

Topic 5: Communism and Its Appeal to the African-American Community

"The Second Red Scare" is also known as McCarthyism. Ralph Ellison devotes large sections of *Invisible Man* to Communism. What was Communism's appeal in the post-World War II world? What did Communism seem to offer to the African-American community?