

History Writing Frame: The Struggle for Civil Rights

Learning objective: To structure an argument and explain the significance of key events and figures in the movement for civil rights.

Use this writing frame to help you organise your historical enquiry into the struggle for equality. Use the word bank to help link your ideas and ensure your arguments are justified with evidence.

Throughout history, individuals and groups have campaigned tirelessly to challenge unfair laws and secure fundamental rights for all people.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in contrast · nevertheless · significantly · injustice · equality · legislation · perseverance · fundamental rights

1. Introduction: Define what the term 'Civil Rights' means and explain why it is important for a society to ensure everyone is treated with equality. Start your response with: 'Civil rights are the essential freedoms and protections that...' (3 marks)

2. Key Figures: Choose one historical figure who fought for civil rights. Explain their contribution and justify why their actions were significant. Start with: 'A notable figure in the struggle for equality was...', and explain why their methods were effective. (4 marks)

3. Comparing Challenges: Compare and contrast the methods used by campaigners in the past with those used by activists today. Use the phrase: 'While historical campaigners often relied on..., modern activists tend to...' (4 marks)

4. The Impact of Legislation: Explain why changing the law is only one step towards achieving true equality. Start with: 'Although new laws were introduced to protect rights, it was challenging because...' (3 marks)

5. Critical Thinking: What might happen if people chose not to stand up against injustice? Justify your answer by considering the long-term effects on a community. (4 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise your findings. Reflect on the progress that has been made and what still needs to be done. Start with: 'In conclusion, the journey towards equality remains ongoing because...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a historical reporter covering a significant march or peaceful protest. Write a diary entry or newspaper report describing the atmosphere, the people involved, and the message they were trying to convey to the public. Use rich, descriptive vocabulary to paint a picture of the scene.