

“The Sit-In” Student Organizer

Name _____

1. Read the excerpts from a 1957 article by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on “Nonviolence and Racial Justice”, available here:

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/eyesontheprize/sources/ps_nonviolence.html

This explains the philosophy of non-violent passive resistance from Dr. King’s view. Underline or make a note of any key phrases that seem particularly important to the philosophy of non-violent protest.

2. With this background in mind, imagine that you are one of the college students who trained and took part in one of the groundbreaking 1960 Nashville lunch counter Sit-Ins. Write a letter to a friend describing the experience. What was the Sit-In like? How did you prepare? How did you manage to remain passive in the face of the threats, violence, and hostility of those around you?