

Unit 7 Journal Entry

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12/23/2012 5:27 PM (Edward Jackson)



August 26th, 1971

Everywhere you look there is some sort of activism going on. You can literally set the air on fire with just a spark. You have the African Americans fighting for racial equality; the Chicanas fighting against sexism and for women's issues; the Lavender Menace fighting for sexual expression and recognized identity; the American Indians in the American Indians Movement (AIM) fighting for basic human rights and acknowledgement of their sovereignty.

I myself am a civil rights activist. It was only just a couple of years ago, in 1969, that I marched in the streets of New York City to protest the Vietnam War. Now here I am fighting for African American equality. I've joined NOW (National Organization for Women) which is a group of educated and organized women who are prompting Washington, D.C. to create legislation to reduce racial disparity, discrimination, and to increase equality in the workplace.

I believe my actions are warranted because a person should not be judged by the color of their skin, or their sex for that matter. Your actions should define who you are...and thus I march on the behalf of all African Americans, but especially for women as they seem to have the worst perception in society. What I expect is equal access to education and career opportunities. It is very difficult for a black woman to be taken seriously in the world run by the white man.

Being an activist hasn't been easy though. Every time I march, there are many people on the sides of the streets yelling at me. One time, someone even threw a rock hitting my sign, even though the police were standing right there. I think the police are actually against us. They don't seem to care that we are fighting for common rights that should be granted to all men and women.

Though it is dangerous, progress is being made. Each time we march, each time we meet, there are more and more women joining the cause. And this is why I am confident that we will be successful; there is strength in numbers. I truly believe that time is on our side. I see a day, coming soon, that men and women, people of all colors and races, will be treated as equals. Until that day, I will march and fight the good fight.

Alison Granger

DuBois, E.C. & Dumenil, L. (2012). *Through Women's Eyes: An American History*. Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin's.
