

MLK Design Seminar

9 January 2013

Reflection Paper 2

I read Diane Nash's reflection on non-violent protests. Reading about how they practiced for the protests was very depressing. They practiced putting their bodies in front of other people, so that no one person would be beaten too badly. I can't even imagine how brave they had to be in order to do that. It is amazing how they suffered through so much physical and mental abuse in order to fight for equality, something I take for granted today.

I think the non-violent protests really contributed to the advancement of the civil rights movement. When Diane Nash saw in the media that the movement was spreading she realized that they were really making a difference. That must have been an unbelievable feeling. If the civil rights movement hadn't been based on non-violent protests I don't know where we would be today. If there had been violence, not only would a lot of people have gotten hurt, but I feel like the movement would have gotten significantly less support. Furthermore, it would have given justification to segregationists to do awful things. Maybe the movement would have even failed. It is just amazing that so many people took the higher road and didn't respond violently to such oppression.

These protesters, just like the bus boycotters were so organized. It's unbelievable how they pulled a community together and were able to get across to people how they were going to protest. Today, I can't imagine anyone able to pull something off on as big of a scale without the internet. I would like to know what was going through these leaders' minds as they were changing history.

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