**Common Core DBQ: The Civil Rights Act Bill to Law Process**

1. With your partner, discuss the Essential Question: Is the bill to law process an effective way to address major issues in America? Why or why not? Write your initial thoughts below.
2. Analyze the letter from Senator Dodd.
   1. When was it written?
   2. Who is the recipient?
   3. What is the purpose of the letter?
   4. Why do Senators Dodd and Cooper want to introduce this bill?
3. Considering this Letter and your historic knowledge of the 1960s, make a prediction about what will happen once the bill is introduced to Congress.
   1. How long do you think the debates would last?
   2. What types of legislators might support or oppose the bill? Consider political parties, geographic region of the US, etc.
   3. What do you think the ultimate fate of this bill will be?
4. Analyze the Narrative of the Civil Rights Bill.
   1. Read the 1st paragraph under Committee Consideration. Using textual evidence, explain why the bill started in the House of Representatives.
   2. Read the 2 paragraphs under House Debate and Passage.
      * Who voted in favor of the bill?
      * Who opposed it?
      * What coalition was necessary for the bill’s success?
   3. Read the section Senate Floor Debate: Leadership Strategy. In 3-4 sentences, explain the leadership strategy for passing the bill.
   4. Skip to the section Senate Debate, “The Long Hard Furrow”.

* What did the southern senators dislike the most about the bill?
* What was Senator Dirksen’s role in this process?
* How long did the filibuster last? What did it do to the Senate?
  1. Skip to the section Cloture. In 3-4 sentences, explain what happened to break the filibuster and why many voted for cloture.

1. Analyze President Johnson’s speech.
   1. How does President Johnson characterize the passage of the Civil Rights Act? What kind of language does he use to describe it? Why do you think he chose that language? How effective is it?
   2. What steps will President Johnson take to implement the law?
2. Look back at your predictions in #3. How correct were they?
3. How did this close study of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 add to your understanding of the Bill to Law process?
4. With your partner, compose a paragraph to answer the Essential Question: Is the bill to law process an effective way to address major issues in America? Why or why not? Support your answer using textual evidence from the Documents. Use the space below for pre-writing organization, and then write your paragraph on a sheet of notebook paper.
5. Staple both your worksheets together with your final paragraph on top.