

Understanding Disenfranchisement in the American South

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Warm Up - Excerpt from the 15th Amendment

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

- According to this amendment, who is now allowed to vote in the United States?
- What does the document mean by *previous condition of servitude*?
- How has voting evolved in the United States since the 15th amendment?

What is Disenfranchisement?

- The act of taking away someone's voting rights
- Following the end of Reconstruction, governments in the south began passing laws, new constitutions, and other practices that were deliberately used to prevent black citizens from registering to vote and voting.
- Methods of Disenfranchisement
 - Grandfather Clause
 - Poll Tax
 - Literacy Tax
 - Intimidation

Station 2: Literacy Test

- [Click here to listen to a clip of an interview with Andrew Young](#)
- [Click here to view a short clip from the film *Selma*](#)

Station 3: Poll Tax

- [Listen to this Interview excerpt with Larry H. Gooden.](#)

Station 4: Intimidation

- [Listen to this excerpt from an interview with Glennon Threatt](#)