

# Eyes on the Prize: Fighting Back

## 1955

**May 31** The Supreme Court issues *Brown II* proclaiming that districts must "make a prompt and reasonable start towards full compliance with our May 17, 1954 ruling."

## 1956

**Feb. 3** Autherine Lucy becomes the first black woman to enroll at the University of Alabama but is soon suspended "for her safety"

## 1957

**Jan. 11** Martin Luther King and other religious leaders form the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to lead the struggle against segregation

**Sept. 4** In Arkansas, nine black students are prevented from attending Little Rock Central High School by a mob of neighborhood whites

**Sept. 25** President Dwight D. Eisenhower sends federal troops to Little Rock to escort the nine black students into the school and protect them for the rest of the school year

## 1958

**Sept. 9** President Eisenhower signs into law the Civil Rights Act of 1957, which gave the federal government some power to enforce equal voting rights

## 1960

**Nov. 8** With a strong black voter base, Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy defeats Republican candidate Richard Nixon

## 1962

**Sept. 20** James Meredith, a black man, applies for admission to the traditionally all white University of Mississippi, but is met with opposition by school officials

**Sept. 30** President John F. Kennedy sends federal troops to intervene on behalf of Meredith, forcing the school administration to allow him to enroll

1. What is the difference between desegregation and integration? What is required for each?

2. Why was school desegregation so explosive?

3. The NAACP chose to contest segregation in federal courts. What myths did it force people to confront? What other avenues of protest were open to blacks in America?

4. How can a democracy ensure that it is not undermined by mob rule?

5. What is the role of the federal government in protecting the freedoms guaranteed to all American citizens when the state fails to do so? What role does the US Constitution play in protecting the rights of American citizens?