Debates over civil rights in the United States often involved competing claims about the definition of freedom, and about the proper role of government. Write an essay analyzing and discussing the ways that these competing claims about freedom and the role of government shaped the debates over civil rights from World War Two through to the end of the 1960s.

In your essay, consider the different attitudes to the idea of freedom expressed by participants in the debate over civil rights. Do you see examples of “negative liberty” and “positive liberty” in the documents? What connections do the different documents draw between the civil rights movement, the concept of freedom, and the proper role of government?

Compare and contrast the documents, looking for similarities and differences. Did supporters of the civil rights movement all share the same attitudes to freedom and the role of government? What about opponents of the civil rights movement?

In writing your essay, make use of ALL of the following sources.

**Primary Sources**

- President’s Commission on Human Rights, To Secure These Rights (1947)
- “The Southern Manifesto” Congressional Record (1956)
- Martin Luther King, Jr., Letter from Birmingham City Jail (1963)
- George Wallace, The Civil Rights Movement: Fraud, Sham, and Hoax (1964)
- Lyndon Johnson, Commencement Address at Howard University (1965)
- Black Panther Party, “What We Want, What We Believe” (1966)
- Barry Goldwater, The Conscience of a Conservative (1960)

You may use relevant sections of the textbook to provide context and additional information, where appropriate, but your essay should focus on analyzing the primary sources and using them to help you answer the question.

Do not simply summarize each primary source one at a time. Try to make an argument that addresses the key issues raised in the question, and use evidence from the sources to support your argument. Use topic sentences to introduce each paragraph.

*In writing your essay, note the instructions on the following page.*
• **Address every part of the question.** Be sure to answer each part of the question in the prompt. It may help to organize your essay using the parts of the prompt as a guide.

• **Include a thesis statement.** You are encouraged to introduce the main argument of your essay in the first or second paragraph, so that your explanation of it is clear throughout.

• **Think for yourself.** Answer the questions with your own brainpower, in your own words. This is NOT a research paper assignment!

***Do NOT visit the Library or the World Wide Web for additional resources. Everything you need to answer the question is in the listed sources. Students who use outside sources risk failing the assignment***

• **Prove your point.** Provide ample evidence to support your argument(s) by providing concrete examples and illustrations from your reading. You do not need to use quotations, but your paper should demonstrate a familiarity with the important arguments made by the documents.

• **Avoid personal sentiments.** Your essay should make an academic argument based on evidence, not opinion.

• **Cite your sources.** Be sure to make specific reference to and cite specific examples from your reading as evidence to support your answer.

• **Use your own words. Plagiarism is unacceptable.** If you are confused about what constitutes plagiarism, consult the library’s guide, or ask the instructor. You MAY use quotations, but they must be clearly indicated using quotation marks, and they should only be used to support YOUR arguments, and not to make your arguments for you.

• **Citations.** You may use whatever format you like (MLA, APA, Chicago style) to cite your sources, but you must make clear for your reader where your information (and not just direct quotations) comes from.

**Format and Submission**

• **Length.** Your paper should be about 4 pages long, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins (about 1200 words)

• **Format.** Submit your paper in one of the following formats: .doc, .docx, .odt, .rtf, .txt, .pdf.  
  Do NOT use the Apple .pages format.

• **Submission.** Submit your paper through TurnItIn on the Cougar Courses website. You will receive a TurnItIn submission number. **Please record this number.**

• **Due Date:** Saturday, May 6, by 11.59 p.m. No late submissions will be accepted.