



**FACING
HISTORY &
OURSSELVES**

CLASSROOM VIDEO • VIEWING GUIDE

DEVELOPING STUDENTS' CAPACITY TO CONNECT TO HISTORY

Overview

In this classroom video, social studies teacher Tareeq Rasheed teaches the lesson The First Day of School from the Choices in Little Rock unit. This lesson examines the decisions that the citizens of Little Rock, Arkansas, made in response to *Brown v. Board of Education*. This lesson begins with the desegregation of the city's largest and most prestigious high school, Central High. The lesson explores civic

choices—the decisions people make as participants in a liberal democracy. Mr. Rasheed starts by asking students to reflect on their first-day-of-school experiences, particularly their first day of 8th grade. As he moves through the lesson, Mr. Rasheed asks students to engage in perspective-taking by reflecting on the decisions they would make as parents during this period.



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Questions to Consider

1. Mr. Rasheed starts the lesson by asking students to reflect on their first day of school. A student responds by saying, “I was nervous I wouldn’t make new friends.” Why do you think the teacher begins the lesson this way?

What effect does starting with students’ own reflections on their first day of school have on their engagement with the lesson? How do you think this approach shaped the rest of the discussion?
 2. At **1:06**, after asking students to reflect on their first-day experiences, Mr. Rasheed says, “I initially started this year off thinking about identity, diversity, and what role it plays in every student’s life—and how a person’s identity, how the world sees them, how that may influence their roles in society itself.” What impact does the exploration of identities have on how students make connections to this history?
 3. At **3:30**, Mr. Rasheed reflects, “The thing that excites me the most is touching on things that have happened in the past that I feel that students either have experienced now or will experience later on in their lives.” What might Mr. Rasheed mean here? What evidence do you see of students making connections to their own lived experiences? How does Mr. Rasheed encourage this practice?
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Featured

Tareeq Rasheed

Social Studies Teacher
8th Grade

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Video Goals

- **See** the Choices in Little Rock lesson on desegregation of Little Rock Central High School in action.
- **Learn** how an educator can use questions and discussion prompts to invite emotional engagement, ethical reflection, and intellectual rigor.
- **Determine** what adjustments you might need to make to the lesson based on your students’ needs.

Lesson Resources

- [Choices in Little Rock](#) (pages 35–36)
- [Eyes on the Prize Study Guide](#)