



AP United States History 2000 Student Samples

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The 1960s were probably the most turbulent decade of the 20th century. Amidst a disheartening war and a assassinated president, the U.S. was changing a lightning speed. Two very profound and large scale cultural changes were the evolution of gener roles and the emphasis on race relations.

The role of the woman in society changed dramatically after the period of Eisenhower conformity. The freedoms won during WWII on the work place were not forgotten. Women in the 60's were continuing their educations further, being hired for jobs other than clerical work. Shirley Chisholm became the first black woman to be elected into the House, a triumph for both women's and black rights. The rebirth of feminism also brought more change. The "Feminine mystique" was being explored. Betty Friedan was able to reach thousands of women when she formed the Nat'l Org. of Women or NOW, which accepted both male and female members. Women were no longer considered only nurturers and housewives. Family planning was an option as the development of birth control and fertility drugs was advanced and their use more widely accepted. Women were encouraged to see themselves not as a part of their husband or simply an entity of the family but as a powerful individual.

Women also became more openly sexual and promiscuous. It's the result of more effective birth control.

Gay and Lesbian rights were ~~more prevalent~~ more prevalent as gay men and women felt more comfortable in society. Marches were organized and in places like San Francisco became celebrations of the liberty and freedom that gays were beginning to enjoy.

Another obvious and profound social/cultural change was the influence and importance of improved race relations. With the civil rights Act of 1957, the demilitarization of the armed forces and ~~the~~

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~~President~~ President Kennedy, a large supporter of civil rights, ~~was~~ a shift in attitude was at hand. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 came with many other adjustments. Black leaders were emerging as effective agents of change. Martin Luther King Jr. was an advocate for peaceful protest of de facto codes and separate but equal in the south. The militant Black Panthers, led by Rap Brown, sought a continued separation and pride in the black community as did Stokely Carmichael and the Black Muslims, and Malcolm X. The Freedom Riders showed proof of the racism in the south by attempting to travel the south using only public transport. The mere existence of these groups showed a change in the attitude of society towards civil rights.

Riots were another aspect of change as the alienated urban blacks in the north lashed out, Baltimore, Detroit, and Chicago to name a few. School integration marked a new high point as the Supreme Court ruled both segregation of schools and all public places unconstitutional in ~~the~~ Brown vs. the Board of Education in 1954. A ruling that reversed the "separate but equal" decision of Plessy v. Ferguson. Affirmative action was also emphasized in the work place. Gains were made for other minorities as well as Asian Americans, Latin Americans and Native Americans were included in the Civil Rights Act.

The 60's were a decade of profound cultural change in both ^{roles} gender and race relations. The decade set a precedent ~~of~~ of social opinions for years to follow.

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The 1960s was a time for great cultural change in almost every aspect of our society, but two of the most profound changes came in music and race relations. Changes in these two aspects are not related outwardly, but each of them inspired the other.

Music was in a complete turn around from the sweet ballads of the 1950s. Rock and roll had exploded in the late 1950s and had changed the sound of ~~music~~ music in the 1960. The music of the 1960s ~~was~~ was full of emotion and reflection on the times. The music really reflected what was going on at the time. The music had feeling and fire behind it; it was not just words to the people who listened to it. People could be inspired to protest against the Vietnam war just by listening to a song. The music was not sweet and innocent, like that of the ~~50~~-50's, but hard and full of reality. People like Jimmy Hendrix, Janice Joplin, and Van Morrison sang about what they saw in this time of drastic change.

Race relations were also going through a large change during the 1960s. Martin Luther King, Jr had started an epidemic

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that had spread to every corner of the United States. People were more set than ever on receiving equal rights in our society for blacks. Race riots went on often and many boycotts and marches were used to get their rights. Even after Martin Luther King, Jr had died the fight did not stop. President Kennedy and ~~Lyndon B. Johnson~~ Lyndon B. Johnson would sign into law equality rights for the blacks during that time. ~~Even~~ Even though blacks were receiving rights, there was much tension between ~~blacks and whites~~ some blacks and whites in the country. Groups like the Black Panthers were trying to receive equality for blacks, but were using violence. Many changes went on during this time for the change in race relations between the blacks and whites. We ~~were~~ were getting closer together in some circles, but still so far apart in others.

During the '60s people were more open-minded and let many new ideas in. This could be the reason for the drastic changes in the feelings of music and the change for the better in the race relations between the blacks and whites in the United States.

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in all aspects of our society.

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Part C

The 1960's represented a period of profound cultural change. From the post WWII United States, the nation started to evolve toward the ideas of more freedom. The gender roles became specifically important because women more than before fought for their rights. Also African-American population became more outspoken about their rights.

The race relations were always an issue which was kind of taboo. The segregation was practiced almost everywhere, although it wasn't a law or was not a part of a Constitution African-Americans didn't have as many opportunities as they should've had. However, the generation of educated Blacks was slowly appearing. Although the number of educated African-Americans wasn't so great it definitely was gradually increasing. The establishment of Tuskegee Institute, century later, led to the establishment of many more schools.

One of the most famous advocates for African-American rights was Martin Luther King Jr who eventually lost his life fighting for the cause of equal rights for his "brothers". However his struggle for fair treatment and independence wasn't left unnoticed. His speech "I have a dream" in Washington D.C., in front of the Lincoln

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monument, was a turning point which led to the end of segregation.

The 1960's were also very important between the gender roles. The women's fight for equality became more conspicuous and wide-spread. The women finally gained the suffrage and became more of a mom in a work-place. However, the full equality wasn't yet attained. Men working the same hours as women and doing the same jobs received higher salaries. The women didn't give up, there were many strikes and protests created by the organizations protecting and fighting for women's rights.

The 1960's was a period of time which led to a cultural change. The differences between races and genders became milder. People were not afraid to fight for their rights. They knew that they deserved the equal way of treatment as everybody else, so they stood up for their beliefs.