

March On Washington by Nick Toney (Fall 2016)

For this portion of the assignment please bullet fifteen to twenty events relevant to your topic of study. The bullets should run between two and four sentences. These bullets will provide you a solid basis for writing your “Day in the Life” journal.

- The March On Washington for Jobs and Freedom was a political rally that occurred on August 28, 1963 at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. in front of 200,000 - 250,000 people.
- The march was led by A. Philip Randolph, leader of the Negro American Labor Council (NALC), Martin Luther King Jr., leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), James Farmer, one of the first members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and Charles McDew of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).
- The March On Washington is where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous “I Have A Dream” speech.
- This was actually the second planned March On Washington, the first being scheduled for the summer of 1941 which was led by A. Philip Randolph to allow blacks to register for the national defense industry. After President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802, which created the Fair Employment Practices Commission, Randolph called off the march. The Fair Employment Practices Commission investigated racial discrimination charges against defense firms.
- A large group of civil rights groups participated in the march, such as the NALC, SCLC, CORE, SNCC, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the National Urban League, the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in America, the United Auto Workers (UAW), as well as many other smaller groups.
- There was diversity in the people of color and religion at the march, showing that not just blacks supported equal civil rights.
- here were singers such as Marian Anderson, Odetta, Joan Baez, and Bob Dylan at the event.
- Malcolm X and the Nation of Islam condemned the event, with Malcolm calling it “the Farce on Washington”.
- The Nation of Islam said it would kick out any member that was caught attending the March on Washington.
- John Lewis had to revise his speech at the event because a few of the leaders of other groups condemned the original version of the speech, saying it was too ‘militant’.

- The march took place one hundred years, eight months and twenty-seven days after the issue of the Emancipation Proclamation.
- The leaders of the march met in the White House with President Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson after the event and talked about bipartisan support of civil rights legislation. This led to the Civil Rights act of 1964 and the Voting Rights act of 1965, which reflected the demands of the march.