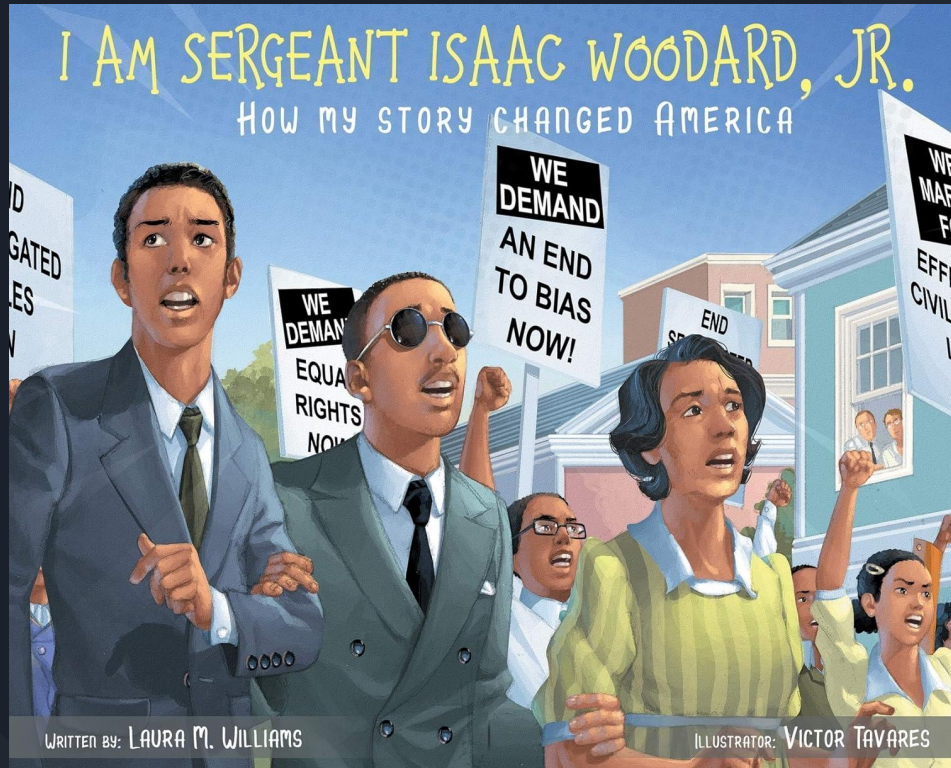


The Legacy of SGT. Isaac Woodard, Jr. and lesson plan ideas for all grade levels




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Written by Laura M. Williams, the Great Niece of Sergeant Isaac Woodard, Jr., 2020, about 75 years after it occurred.

One of her purposes in writing this was to increase “Empathy, Compassion, and Diversity” among our population, especially within our school.



Laura M. Williams,
the great-niece of
Sergeant Isaac
Woodard, Jr., 2020.



[Anti-Bullying Program | Sgtisaac.com](https://www.sgtisaac.com)

Major Characters within the book



Grandpa
Alex Woodard



Father
Isaac
Woodard Sr.



Mother
Sarah
Woodard



Sister Ida



Sister Anabelle



Brother Arthur

*H*ere Sgt. Woodard becomes a griot, sharing his story for children. This story illuminates the history of inequality for African-Americans in America, while recognizing the brave souls who have chosen to lend support and bring about positive change. Sergeant Woodard's story gives the young reader a glimpse of history, hope and faith in humanity.



Sister Eunice



Sister Rosalie



Sister Bessie



Sister Ellen



Brother Saul




Nephew Bobby

Timeline

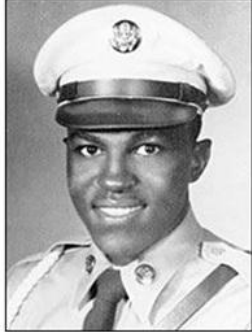
- 1919 - Born in Fairfield, South Carolina
- Grew up in Goldboro, North Carolina, 1 of 9 children
- 1942 - enlisted in the U.S. Army at Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- Served in the Pacific Theater as a longshoreman in a labor battalion, loading and unloading cargo on ships
- Age 26, honorably discharged from the U.S. Army
- February 12, 1946, along with several other black and white discharged soldiers boards a Greyhound bus to return home. He asked to leave the bus to use the restroom which led to a “heated exchange with the bus driver.” He would then be arrested and received a beating so severe it left him blind; “heinous details left out.”
- July 1948, President Truman issues EO #9981

[Civil Rights Timeline - Truman Library Institute](#)



“What followed is an incredible story of angst, courage and motivation on behalf of Sgt. Woodard, President Harry S. Truman, and Judge J. Waites Waring. This incident contributed to the Civil Rights Movement and quickly gained momentum.”

- *Laura M. Williams*



VETERAN'S EYES GOUGED OUT BY HATE-CRAZED DIXIE POLICE



AID FOR BLIND VETERAN

Benefit at Lewisohn Stadium to Start Him on Career

A benefit performance by stars of stage, screen and radio to raise \$22,000 for Isaac Woodard Jr., blinded Negro veteran, will be held Friday at the Lewisohn Stadium, it was announced yesterday by Joe Louis, heavyweight boxing champion and co-chairman with Carol Brice, contralto, of the benefit committee. Mayor O'Dwyer is honorary chairman.

"This is the kind of thing I like to be in because I'm always in my people's corner," Mr. Louis said. It was said that all seats in the stadium will sell for \$1.50 and the proceeds will be used first to train Mr. Woodard as a restaurateur and then establish him in the trade. The veteran said he wanted to go into that business.



S. Carolina Cop Gouged Out Eyes Of Negro Vet Who Fought in Pacific

South Carolina policemen gouged the eyes out of a Negro veteran, three hours after his discharge from the Army, because of colored people revealed yesterday. The War Department has failed to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The veteran is Isaac Woodard, Jr., 37, of 1180 Peachtree Ave., Bronx, winner of a battle star for service in the New Guinea and Philippine campaigns.

While in uniform, he was taken from a Greyhound bus in Aiken, S. C., beaten unconscious and had his eyes gouged out by the end of a policeman's billy. Woodard testified.

Woodard tells a story in sworn affidavits detailing tales of horror from Nazi torture chambers. He served his country four years. Fifteen months of this in the searing South Pacific campaign with the 488th Central Postal Directory.

Discharged honorably at Camp Gretna, S.C., about 8:30 p.m. Feb. 15, Woodard boarded a bus in Aiken to head for Winthrop, S. C. There he planned to visit his wife and return to New York to see his father and mother.

About an hour out of Aiken the bus stopped at a small drug store. Woodard asked the Greyhound driver if he (Woodard) could go to the next town.

"The carred me and said, 'No,'" Woodard said in describing the incident. "When he asked me, I turned him back. After I turned him, he said, 'Go ahead and get off and have him get out of here.'"

Woodard was beaten unconscious by the police. He was taken to a hospital where he was treated for several days. He was discharged from the hospital on Feb. 16, 1945.

Woodard is now blind and has a permanent disability. He is unable to work and has no means of support.

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Get That Cop

Somebody has got to get that policeman who gouged out the eyes of a Negro veteran...

Mr. Walter White of the NAACP...

The War Department...

Woodard is now blind...

Woodard is now blind...

Woodard is now blind...

Woodard is now blind...

Woodard is now blind...

Woodard is now blind...

Woodard is now blind...

Woodard is now blind...

Woodard is now blind...

Woodard is now blind...

Woodard is now blind...

Woodard is now blind...

Woodard is now blind...

Woodard is now blind...

Woodard is now blind...

Woodard is now blind...

Woodard is now blind...

50,000 PA. VETS JOBLESS, WON'T WORK FOR \$13 WEEK

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Fifty thousand unemployed World War veterans here today are refusing to accept a \$13-a-week job offer...

The offer is for a job in the steel industry...

The offer is for a job in the steel industry...

The offer is for a job in the steel industry...

The offer is for a job in the steel industry...

The offer is for a job in the steel industry...

The offer is for a job in the steel industry...

The offer is for a job in the steel industry...

"I'm a man just like you," Woodard said. "I spent 3 1/2 years in the service of my country and thought I would be treated as a man when I returned to my country," Woodard said. "But that was a mistake."

He Will Never See the Sun: Isaac Woodard, a Pacific War hero and veteran, is set for a job by the steel industry...

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**“YOU CAN’T CURE A MORAL PROBLEM
BY IGNORING IT.”**

– President Harry S. Truman

Lesson Plan idea:
Video Analysis

[Document Analysis | National Archives](#)



MP2002-365 Former President Truman Tells the Story of Isaac Woodard
HarrySTrumanLibrary

<https://youtu.be/dhViJWIJzuY>

Analyze a Video



Meet the video.

What do you see in the video?
Circle all that apply.



PEOPLE



ACTIVITIES



OBJECTS

Is there a title?

YES

NO

If so, what does the title tell you about the video?



Observe its parts.

Who do you see in the video?

What activities do you see happening in the video?

What places do you see in the video?

Write two words that describe this video.



Try to make sense of it.

Who do you think made this video?

Who do you think was supposed to see the video?

When is this video from?

What is the main idea of the video?
List two things (people, activities, or places) from the video that support the main idea.



Use it as historical evidence.

Where do you think you could find out more information about the people, activities or places from this video?



Lesson Plans on the Truman website:

[HTML](#)

“Protecting our Posterity from the Prejudices of the Past”



[HTML](#)

Timeline of Civil Rights through American History



Isaac Woodard

Sergeant Isaac Woodard Jr. was born on March 8, 1919, in Fairfield County, South Carolina to Sarah Elizabeth Woodard and Isaac Woodard Sr. He was the fifth of nine children.

At 23, Woodard enlisted in the U.S. Army at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina. On February 12, 1946, after returning to the U.S. from serving in World War II, Woodard was on a bus heading for his home when he asked to use the restroom during a rest stop. The driver initially denied Woodard's request and spoke to him in a disrespectful manner. Woodard told him to 'treat him like a man' as he had treated him. A short verbal altercation ensued. Woodard was allowed to use the restroom. At the next stop, the driver pulled over in Batesburg,

South Carolina where police officers took Woodard into custody, arrested and assaulted him while he was jailed, blinding him by beating him in the eyes.

In September of 1946, President Harry S. Truman learned of Woodard's blinding and ordered the Justice Department to open an investigation. A short time later, the officers involved were indicted and acquitted in U.S. District Court with Judge Julius Waties Waring presiding.

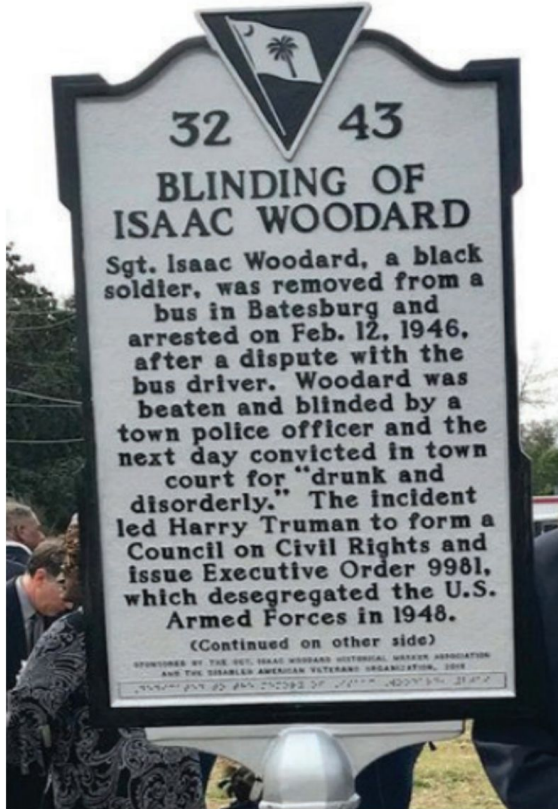
A short time later, Truman began the process of desegregating the U.S. military and creating the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services. In an interview with Gil Noble, Woodard said, "People should learn how to live with one another and how to treat one another. Because after all, we all are human beings, regardless of color."

Woodard moved to the Bronx, New York where he lived near family and owned properties until his death in 1992. In 2019, a historical plaque was erected in Batesburg-Leesville to memorialize the 1946 attack.

2022

Lesson Plan Idea

Use the photograph of the marker and the bio fro Isaac Woodard to compare five facts about Isaac in the chart below.



Bio

Marker

LEWISOHN STADIUM

137th Street & Convent Avenue, NYC

ISAAC WOODARD BENEFIT SHOW

Sponsored by Citizens Committee

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 1946

8 P. M.

for

Amsterdam News Welfare Fund

To Aid Isaac Woodard

MAYOR WILLIAM O. DWYER JOE LOUIS - CAROL BRICE
Honorary Chairman Co-Chairmen

Artists

JOE LOUIS	CAB CALLOWAY
CAROL BRICE	CANADA LEE
LOUIS JORDAN	COUNT BASIE
KING COLE TRIO	MAXINE SULLIVAN
PEARL BAILEY	BILLY HOLIDAY

Price \$1.20 (inc. tax)

Tickets sold at:—

Harlem YMCA — 135th Street off 7th Ave.
Harlem YMCA — 137th Street off 7th Ave.
Franks Restaurant — Bet. 8th Ave. & St. Nicholas
Palm Cafe — 125th Street and 7th Ave.
March on Washington Movement—Bookstore
Amsterdam News, 2340 — 8th Ave.

This is the actual ad for the Isaac Woodard Benefit Show that occurred in 1946. Use the ad to answer the questions below.

1. When was the Benefit Show?
2. What was the address of the show?
3. Who was the Mayor of NYC?
4. How much did it cost?
5. List 3 of the artists that entertained.
6. What is the address of the Palm Cafe?

Orson Welles Commentaries

“A Dangerous, Costly, and Heartbreaking Process, Orson Welles, Radio Broadcaster,
7/26/1946



Analyze a Sound Recording



Meet the sound recording.

What do you hear in the sound recording? Circle all that apply.



TALKING



SINGING



SPEECH



MUSIC



NEWS
REPORT



INTERVIEW



DISCUSSION

Is there a title?

YES

NO

If so, what does the title tell you about the recording?

Observe its parts.

Who do you hear in the sound recording?

What is the sound recording about?

Write two words that describe this sound recording.

Try to make sense of it.

Who do you think made this sound recording?

Who do you think was supposed to hear this recording?

When is this recording from?

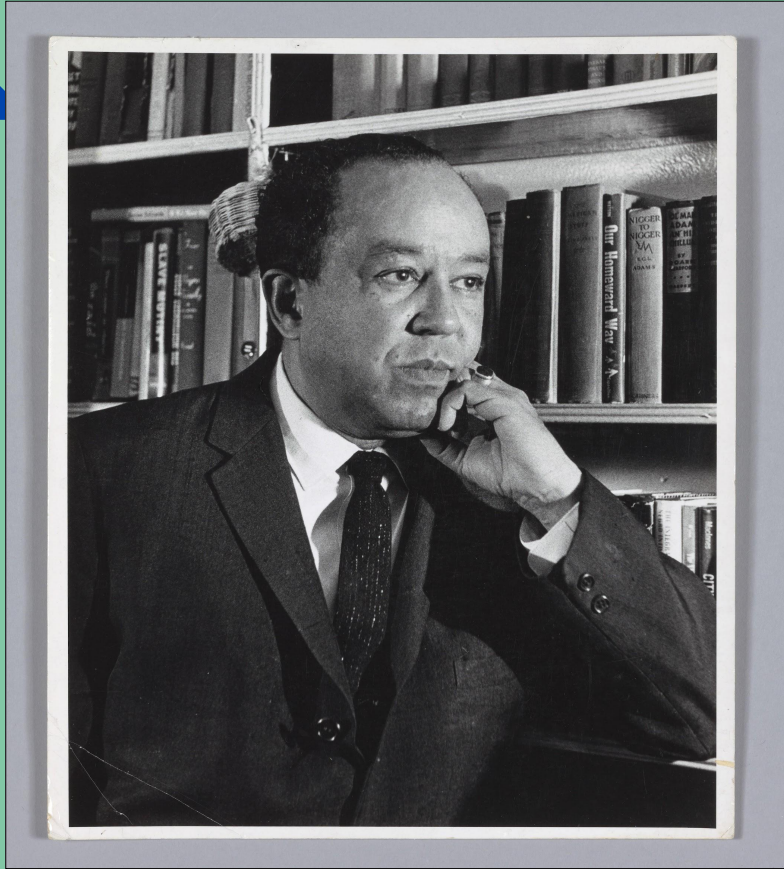
What is the main idea of the recording?
List two things (words or sounds) from the recording that support the main idea.



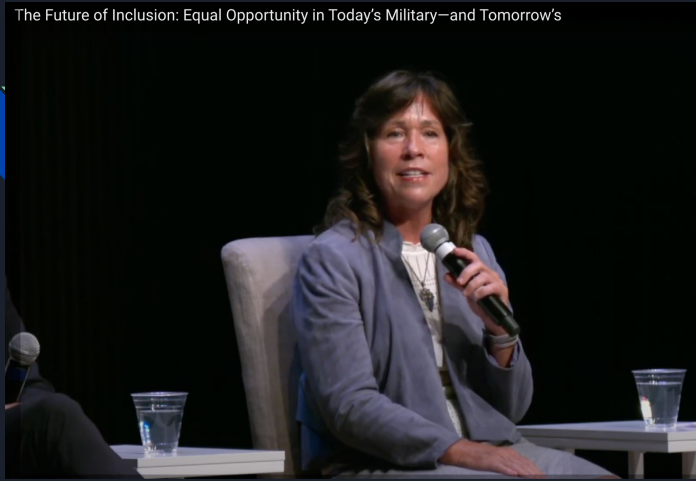
Use it as historical evidence.

Where do you think you could find out more information about the people or topics from this sound recording?





In writing about these crimes and attempts to hold attackers accountable, Joplin, Missouri born poet and activist, Langston Hughes, deemed the quest for justice, “a dangerous, costly and heartbreaking process.”



Dr. Kori Schake, Senior Fellow and Director of Foreign and Defense Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute, said she worked under Michelle Howard's leadership which was "one of inclusion" and one which "created a sense of community."

We are the "LEGACY of Truman's Executive Order," as she praised her mentor, Master Chief Williams, Sr., USN (Ret.) and Vice Adm. Melvin G. Williams, Jr., USN (Ret.).

-Admiral (Ret.) Michelle Howard, U.S. Navy





Truman Library Institute
“...the foundation....supports those who desire to learn more...who desire to be action-oriented and patriotic and who cross (all kinds of) lines... and who understand democracy is not merely a spectator sport...”

-Terry Babcock-Lumish, Executive Secretary for the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY