Teaching Tips
This source set features a series of interviews about the Freedom Rides of 1961. Freedom Riders describe their motivations for participating and their experiences during the rides. Several of the interviews feature participants’ recollections of the attack on their bus in Anniston, Alabama, in 1961. These suggested activities provide opportunities to consider similarities and differences across sources and to identify the goals of the Freedom Riders.

Background Information
Before engaging with this resource set, students should be familiar with the following:

- Jim Crow laws
- The African American Civil Rights Movement
- The Montgomery Bus Boycott
- Student sit-in movement

Essential Question
What motivated the Freedom Riders?

General Discussion Questions
- What were the goals of the Freedom Rides?
- What happened to the Freedom Riders in Anniston, Alabama? How were the accounts of the events in Anniston similar? How did they differ?
- What were reactions to the attack in Anniston?
Classroom Activities

1) Topic: The role of the press

Ask students to watch the following sources:
   - Interview With Diane Nash, Coordinator of the Nashville Freedom Riders (2009)
   - Interview With Delores Boyd (2009)
   - Interview With Historian Derek Charles Catsam (2009)

According to these sources, how did civil rights organizers support the Freedom Rides? What role did the press play in the Freedom Rides?

2) Comparing accounts of the attack

Ask students to watch the following sources:
   - Interview With Freedom Rider Genevieve Hughes Houston (2009)
   - Interview With Catherine Burks-Brooks, a Student at Tennessee State University (2009)
   - Interview With John Seigenthaler, Special Assistant to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy (2009)
   - Reporter Moses Newson Describes Bus Attack (2009)

All of these sources address the attack on the Freedom Riders’ bus in Anniston, Alabama. How are the accounts similar? How are they different? How might the backgrounds of the speakers have influenced what they said about the attack?

3) Topic: Goals of the Freedom Riders

Ask students to watch the following source:
   - Interview With Diane Nash, Coordinator of the Nashville Freedom Riders (2009)
   - Interview with John Lewis (2009)
   - Interview With Catherine Burks-Brooks, a Student at Tennessee State University (2009)

What motivated these Freedom Riders to participate? How did they hope to enact change? How did these goals connect to the broader Civil Rights Movement?