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## **Fostering Community through Grassroots DH at Mississippi State University**

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# Fostering Community through Grassroots DH at Mississippi State University

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<http://mrg.bz/T2BVSU>



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# Talking Points

- About the Starkville Civil Rights Project
- Stages of Building Collaboration and Community
- Skills needed (and how to foster them)
- Lessons learned

<http://mrg.bz/SZmXR9>



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# 'A Shaky Truce' : Starkville Civil Rights Struggles, 1960-1980

Through oral history interviews and digitized archival documents, this site highlights the civil rights story in Starkville, MS, and the voices of its participants.

[starkvillecivilrights.msstate.edu](http://starkvillecivilrights.msstate.edu)



## The People

Below are the people—many of them Mississippi natives—who witnessed and experienced the struggles for African American equal rights. Hear their stories about overcoming injustice and facing opposition—both latent and overt—head on.



**JOYCE ALLEN**  
Starkville Native, Daughter of MSU Employees

“When Starkville...integrated the schools, and boycotted stores so that blacks could have jobs in the banks and retail establishments, that was accomplished, from my memory, through a lot of boycotting.”

[Full Interview](#)



**BOBBY BARDWELL**  
Henderson High School Alumnus

“You know, we’re tired, we wanna register, we ought to be registered...but we pay taxes and we ought to be registered.”

[Full Interview](#)



**NANCY BARDWELL**  
Graduate of Starkville High School's First Integrated Class

“When I was growing up the only white children that I knowed were the ones where my mom worked.”

[Full Interview](#)



**REX BUFFINGTON**  
Former Director, MSU Stennis Center; Promoted the 1990s and Current School Consolidation Plans

“I think one of the things that sort of dawned on me early on in the process was that my African American classmates were not any happier about it than we were.”

[Full Interview](#)

**James Graham Interview**  
Mississippi State University  
Dee Heard/Hillary Richardson, Interviewer |

0:29 - Brief Bio  
1:00 - Washington County was like a Plantation  
1:47 - James Graham's Parents and The Places that He Lived  
2:50 - From Farm Life to Freedom Worker  
4:17 - Meeting Ron Bridgeforth and Bill Lights  
5:30 - Enemies from Within  
6:05 - "No Fear, Had to Be careful"

TRANSCRIPT INDEX  
Search this Index  
Search



[ [oralhistoryonline.org](http://oralhistoryonline.org) ]



## The Struggle



### Segregated Education

[Read More](#)

During the sixteen years between the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) and *Alexander v. Holmes County Board of Education* (1969) decisions, Henderson High School and the all-white Starkville High School were separate but not equal. Read and listen to stories about living a segregated life here.



### Getting Organized

[Read More](#)

Prior to the passage of the Civil and Voting Rights Acts of 1964 and 1965, there was little-to-no organized resistance to segregation in Starkville. However, some local citizens took it upon themselves to challenge the racially divided society. Read about the leadership and development that it took to bring a community together.



### The MSU Story

[Read More](#)



### Fighting Segregation

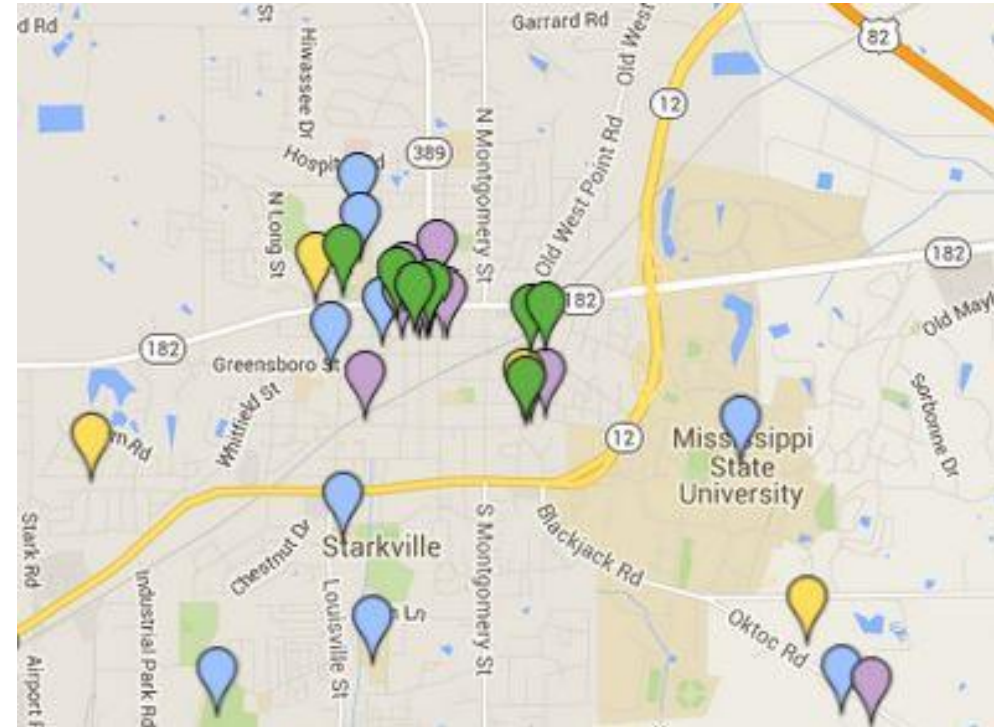
[Read More](#)





# starkvillecivilrights.msstate.edu

## The Place History of Starkville



New York World-Telegram & Sun Collection, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress (97) Digital ID # cph 3c27042

Mrs. Nettie Hunt, sitting on steps of Supreme Court, holding newspaper, explaining to her daughter Nikie the meaning of the Supreme Court's decision banning school segregation

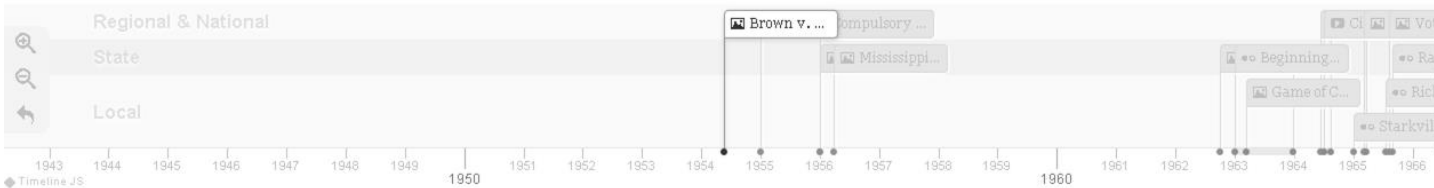
May 17, 1954

## Brown v. Board of Education

The U. S. Supreme Court rules unanimously that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal" and thus unconstitutional. This landmark decision overturns the long-standing "separate but equal" doctrine of Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896, and paves the way for the desegregation of public schools and other public facilities.

Explore Civil Rights in Mississippi, The South, and the Nation

"Brown II"



Timeline JS

[ [timeline.knightlab.com](http://timeline.knightlab.com) ]



[ [google.com/mymaps](http://google.com/mymaps) ]

## Resources

In addition to sharing the untold stories of the Starkville Civil Rights Movement for our community, this project hopes to serve as a tool for educators, a spring-board for archival research for scholars, and as resource for those interested in learning more about this local and national story.



### Teachers

[Explore Tools](#)

From lesson plans with presentation slides, to worksheets and discussion questions, educators can use these to engage their students in the nuances of the Civil Rights Movement in Starkville, MS.



### Researchers

[Learn More](#)

This project began in the archives at Mississippi State University Libraries, but there is much more to explore and add to the discussion of Civil Rights in Mississippi. Use these resources to get started.



### Bibliographies

[Read More](#)

Want to know more about racial equality in the United States, as well as the Civil Rights Movement? From both scholarly and fictional books, to digital primary sources, this project will continue to add relevant reads to these bibliographies.



# Our Team

- 2 Research Librarians
- 1 History Professor (on sabbatical)
- 4 Doctoral students (dissertating)
- 3 Masters students (graduated)
- 1 Honors Undergrad (volunteer)

<http://mrg.bz/rkKcNI>



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# Grassroots + DH

A grassroots theme underlies both the project's *research* and in our *execution* of it.

<http://mrg.bz/D1R2v>



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# Stages

- Public history course / Research Question
- Grant funding / Develop goals and timeline
- Curate content and build the site
- Community Forum
- A “living website”

<http://mrg.bz/A1RMMC>



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# 1. Public History Course Project (Spring 2014)



## From Courthouse to Field House: Starkville Integration Protest, 1965-1970

## From Courthouse to Field House: Starkville Integration Protest, 1965-1970



### History

Sets the scene for the 1970 Starkville protest and places this event in the larger Civil Rights context



### Map

Provides a spatial representation of the events described by local participants.



### Protest

Audio and audio-visual clips of participants and their memories of the protest.



### Teaching Modules

Some clear suggestions for implementing this information



### School Integration

A small collection of newspaper articles portraying the integration of Mississippi State University and Starkville High School



### Further Reading

Other links and resources for more information.





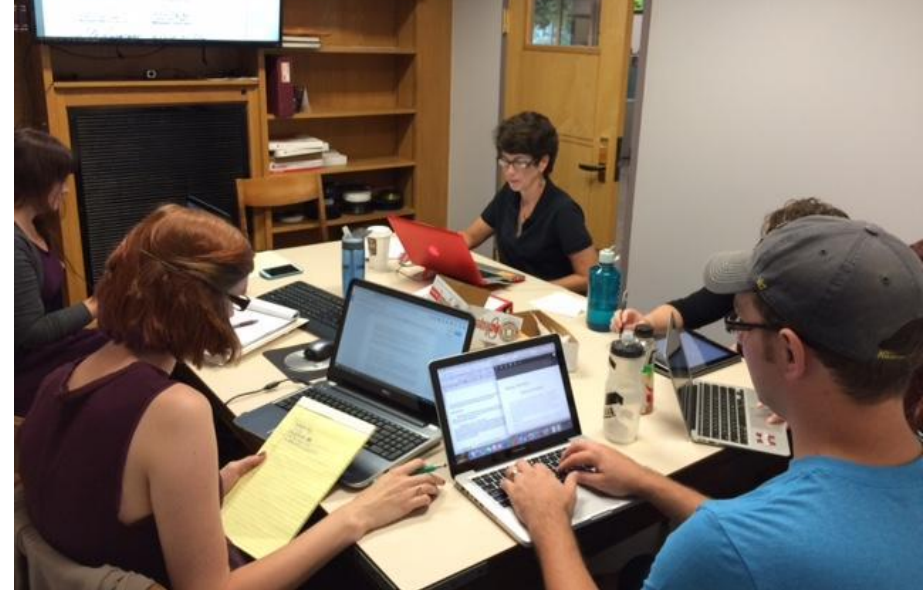
## 2. Grant funding / Develop goals and timeline

- Open-ended project to “benefit both community and the library”
- Gave much-needed structure and resources to the project:
  - Statement of Need
  - Detailed Budget
  - Timeline



# 3. Curate Content & Build Site

- Worked on various components separately through sub-teams
  - Project management
  - Archival research
  - Oral history interviews + indexing
  - Website design + organization of content
  - Crafting the narrative







# 4. Community Forum




**Share Your Memories**



[starkvillecivilrights.msstate.edu](http://starkvillecivilrights.msstate.edu)

Mississippi Humanities

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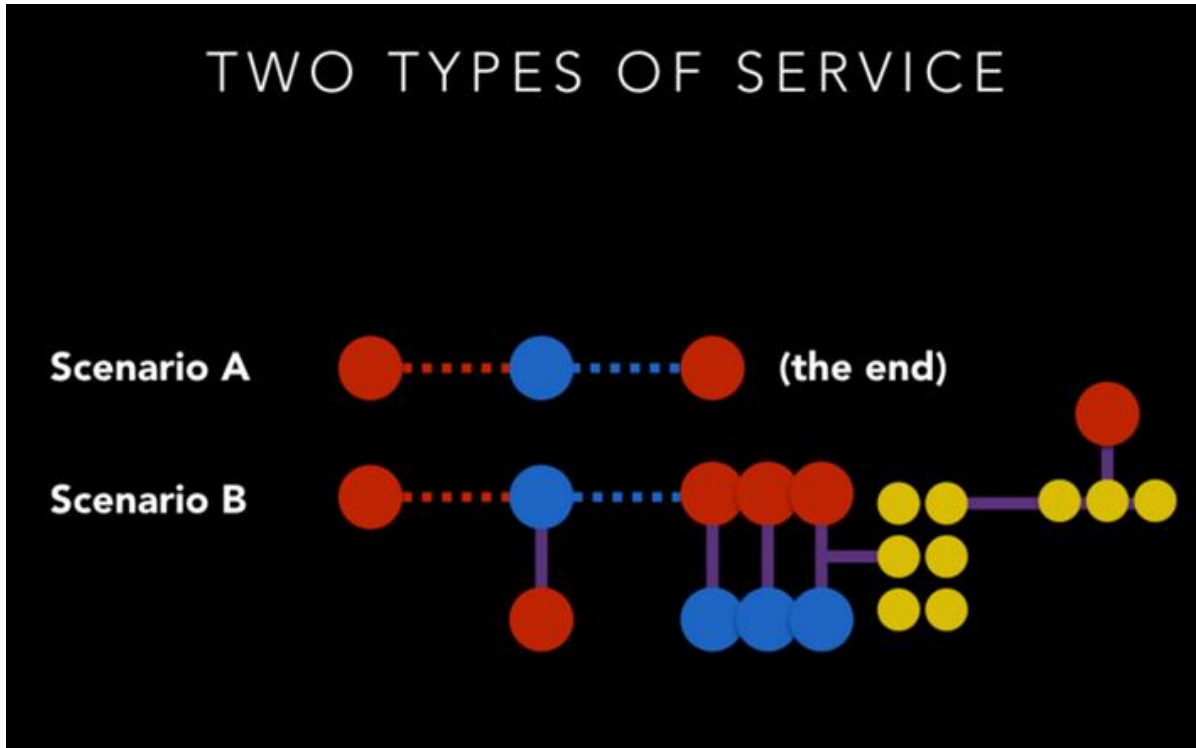
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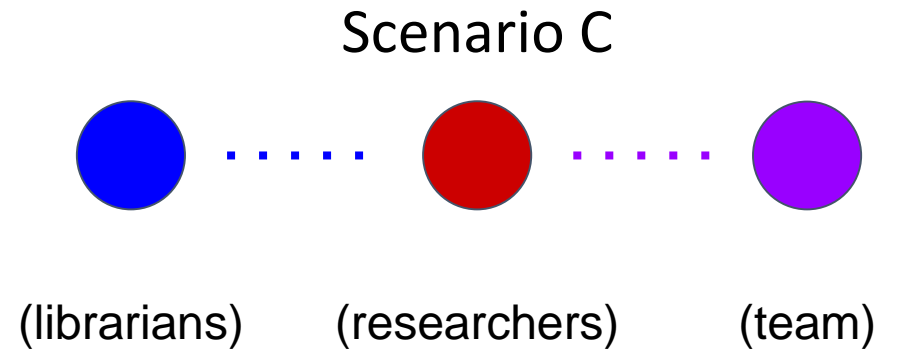
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# How is this different?



Amanda Visconti:  
[literaturegeek.com/2016/02/28/DHjobtalk](http://literaturegeek.com/2016/02/28/DHjobtalk)







# Lessons Learned

<http://mrg.bz/NrjhWa>



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# 1. Sharing Research Can Be Hard

<http://mrg.bz/ikUu6K>



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## 2. Project management is constant

<http://mrg.bz/ho0mf5>



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# 3. Scaffolding tools helps accommodate different skillsets



<http://mrg.bz/qNJKOg>



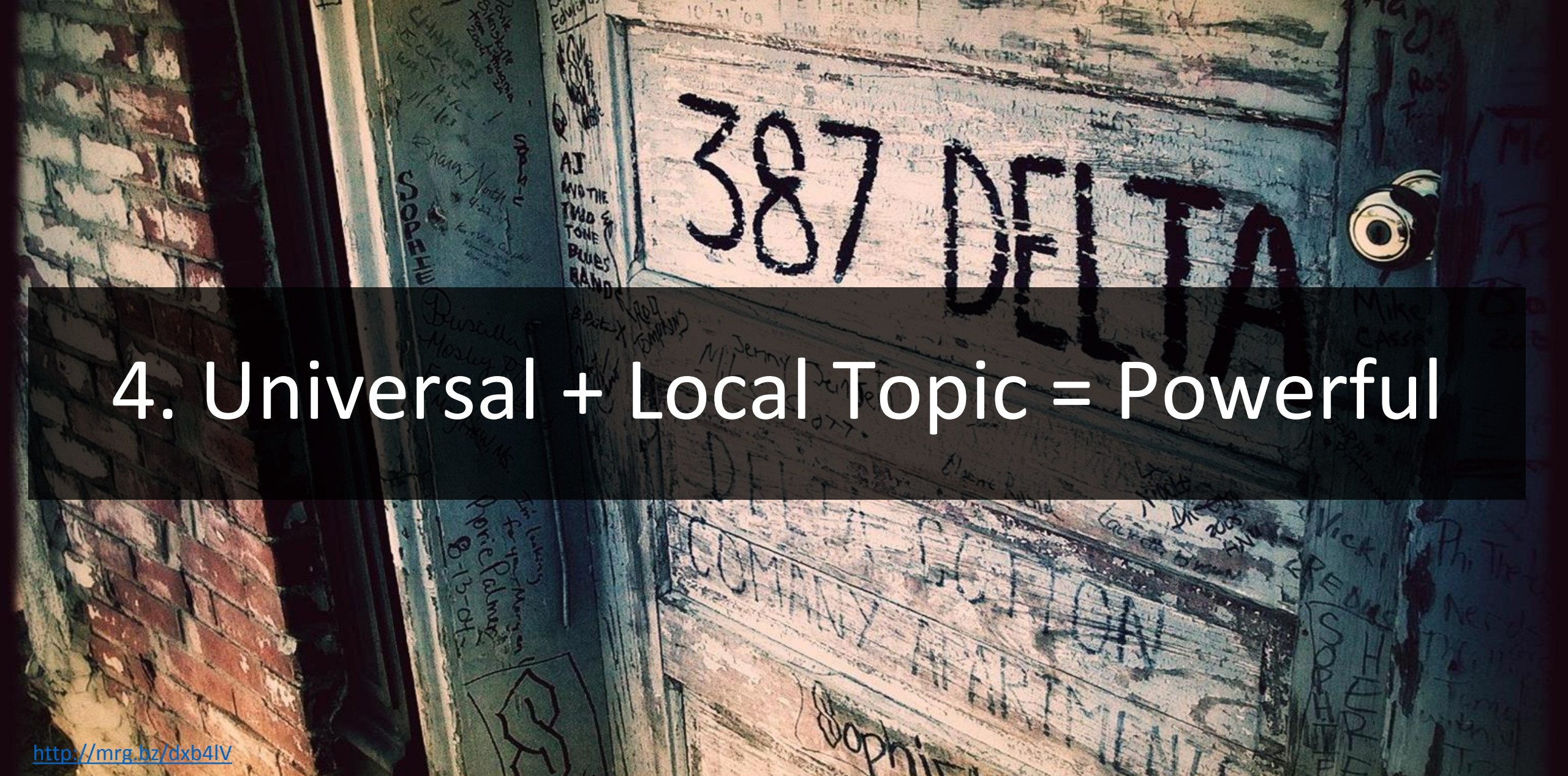
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# 4. Universal + Local Topic = Powerful

<http://mrg.bz/dxb4IV>



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# Thank you!

[starkvillecivilrights.msstate.edu](http://starkvillecivilrights.msstate.edu)

<http://mrg.bz/rN2fsc>



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