

The Goals of the March on Washington: What Did They Hope to Accomplish?

1. Read the goals below and then write the anticipated effect the authors had for each goal.

Goal	Passage of meaningful civil rights legislation.
Anticipated Effect	
Goal	Immediate elimination of school segregation.
Anticipated Effect	
Goal	A program of public works, including job training, for the unemployed.
Anticipated Effect	
Goal	A federal law prohibiting discrimination in public or private hiring for a job.
Anticipated Effect	
Goal	A \$2-an-hour minimum wage nationwide.
Anticipated Effect	
Goal	Withholding federal funds from programs that tolerate discrimination.
Anticipated Effect	
Goal	Enforcement of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution by reducing congressional representation from States that do not allow all citizens to vote.
Anticipated Effect	
Goal	A broadened fair Labor Standards Act to areas of employment that were currently excluded.
Anticipated Effect	
Goal	Authority for the Attorney General to take someone to court if they have violated the constitutional rights of others
Anticipated Effect	

2. Put a check next to any goal that you feel has been met since 1963, an “x” next to any goal that has not been met, and a question mark next to any goal that you aren’t sure if it has totally been met since 1963.

3. In general think about which goals have been met, haven’t, and aren’t fully met yet and give reasons why you believe it is so. Choose one example from each group and try to analyze why it has or hasn’t been met.

4. Why do you think that the organizers of the March chose to present their demands in this way? Evaluate whether this method was effective at the time, and how effective has it been over the last 50 years.