Your third writing assignment requires you to answer the following question in light of the readings in Steven Lawson and Charles Payne, Debating the Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1968.

**Which organization or group was most important in the expansion of civil rights in modern America: the legislative and executive branches of the federal government (Congress and the president), the courts, or everyday people?**

Your answer should not be an “all or nothing” sort of response, but should be a nuanced response to the question. In other words, consider the power (and the limits of power) of each group as you construct your answer. Where necessary, draw on the evidence (including primary sources) found in each book to support your response.

Essays are to be between 1000-1200 words.

**All essays are due in class on the last day of classes:**
Sections 13 & 14 - Wednesday, April 16
Sections 20 & 21 - Thursday, April 17

**No late essays will be accepted.**

Some Suggestions for Writing Your Essay

1. Remember that you are to make a clear argument that answers the question not review what these authors argue. The best way to keep to this task is to write a strong thesis statement that sets forth your analysis/argument in clear terms.
2. Outline your paper in a way that sets up each paragraph to propel your argument forward.
3. Choose active, simple past tense verbs to keep your sentences clear.
4. Write a conclusion that pulls the argument together in a logical way.

All essays must include the following

1. A title that clearly defines the essay’s purpose and theme.
2. A clear introduction.
4. Orderly paragraphs with smooth transitions.
5. Correct spelling and punctuation.
6. Footnotes in Chicago Style for each citation.
7. A clear conclusion.