



# The Debate For Democracy

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*The Debate for Democracy* | Written by Sharon Miles | Directed by Francine Thomas Reynolds  
Featuring: Ashia Benford, Devin Hunter, and Sharon Miles

Themes: Civil Rights, Mississippi History, Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, Ella Baker, Fannie Lou Hamer, Martin Luther King Jr.

Running Time: 57 minutes | Best suited for middle and high schools

The fight for democracy will always be led by the oppressed. During the monumental civil rights movement, national, and local leaders were unwavering in their belief that the promises foretold in the U.S. Constitution should apply to all its citizens. While the mission was unified, there was often heated debate about the best approach to change. In August 1964, a coalition of grassroots activists from Mississippi challenged the racially-exclusive political system of America. Mississippi Blacks seeking the right to vote were subjected to violence and intimidation. Therefore, when barred from participating in the state's Democratic Party, The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) was founded. *The Debate for Democracy* documents this landmark activism that questioned the morals and ethics of America. Explore behind-the-scene conversations, decisions, and the meeting that led MFDP delegates to decline President Lyndon B Johnson's two seat compromise. *The Debate for Democracy* examines the position of national civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., renowned community organizer Ella Baker, and Mississippi's own Fannie Lou Hamer.

