


Melding Media & Primary Sources P.T.C. Strike of 1944 Webquest

- I. Read Stephen Nepa's article about the PTC at the Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia website <http://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/philadelphia-transportation-company-ptc-strike/>
 - A. What jobs were open and which were closed to African American employees of the PTC before the strike?
 - B. Which groups did Carolyn Davenport Moore bring together to fight the discrimination of the PTC?
 - C. Which organization mandated that the PTC hire black drivers?
 - D. How did the reaction of the PTC differ from the reaction of the PRTEU when the order to promote black workers was issued??
 - E. How many troops did President Roosevelt send to Philadelphia and what were they charged with doing while here?
 - F. With what penalties did Major-General Hayes threaten the striking workers if they refused to return to work?
 - G. How long did soldiers remain aboard public transit as a precaution against disruption?
 - H. What evidence is given in the article that indicates that blacks were accepted into the PTC workforce once the strike had ended?

2. Go to the Civil Rights in a Northern City website and look over the Time-line <http://northerncity.library.temple.edu/exhibits/show/civil-rights-in-a-northern-city/collections/philadelphia-transit-strike-of/timeline--philadelphia-transit>
 - A. What was the immediate impact on war production once the strike was underway?

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- B. What types of establishments were shut down to discourage fighting (you'll need to click on the article listed under 8/2/44)
 - C. Other than the shooting of a "Negro Boy," what violence was inflicted on the black community on August 3rd, 1944(click on article)?
 - D. What proportion of PTC workers were participating in the strike by August 4th 1944?
 - E. What two things happened to the leaders of strike on Saturday, August 5th 1944?
 - F. On what day did the strike end?
3. Go to the photo section of the same website; notice that you can scroll through page by page.
<http://northerncity.library.temple.edu/items/browse?collection=6&tags=photographs>
 - A. On page 1, click on the two images of women looking at bus advertising. Why do you think the PTC was eager to hire female drivers for this traditionally male job?
 - B. On page 2, find three slogans on signs held by protestors that tie directly to the Second World War. Briefly explain the message of each.
 - C. On page 4, what are the striking PTC drivers donating and why?
 - D. On page 5, find and then list four different ways people found to get to work in the absence of mass transit.
 - E. On page 6, why might the soldier be confused about how to eat spaghetti?
 - F. On page 8, click on the photo of City Hall. What indicates that this photo was taken during the Second World War?

G. Look through pages 9 through 14. Imagine you have written a book about the PTC Strike of 1944.

1. Which image would you choose for the cover of your book? Describe the photo and explain why you would select this image?
2. What would be the title of your book? Be creative!
3. In 5-7 sentences, write the blurb for the back of the book. Your blurb must summarize the events of the strike. Include the following terms:
 - a. A. Philip Randolph
 - b. President Roosevelt
 - c. Executive Order 8802
 - d. Fair Employment Practices Committee
 - e. PTC.
 - f. PRTEU
 - g. Carolyn Davenport Moore
 - h. Major-General Hayes