

## Black History goes like this

Written by Shanell McCoy - Youthprise Intern  
Wednesday, 20 February 2013 14:15

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Ask most youth about black history and it will go something like this: black people were slaves and then Abe Lincoln set them free. After that, Martin Luther King Jr. marched and Rosa Parks said no to a white man on a bus so that black people could sit in the front even though most of the time they still sit in the back. Then, Obama became president and the struggle was over.

The extent of our knowledge of black history is based simply on what the textbooks and movies say about it. Textbooks in our classrooms often include one to two paragraphs about slavery and the civil rights movement, simplifying our history to a couple of events. In more ways than not, our generation is repeating the past without even knowing it. The black man that *chooses*

not to go to school puts himself in the same position as the black man that *could not*

go to school. The great grandson that *chooses*

not to get a job puts himself in the same position as his great grandfather that *could not*

get a job. The granddaughter that *chooses*

not to vote puts herself in the same position as her grandmother that *could not* vote.

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