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## Civil Disobedience Essay

Martin Luther King Jr. once said that "One has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws" and when breaking an unjust law one "must do so openly, lovingly, and with a willingness to accept the penalty." By this he is saying if you are going to break the law do it so people know, and knowing the consequences of what you are doing. History has encountered multiple scenarios in which people used Civil Disobedience to let people know about the unjust laws that occurred and would social change. Both Boycott and <sup>the</sup> Civil Disobedience made the use of non-violent protesting can be used as an effective tool to put an end to unjust laws.

Boycott showed how African Americans in the 1950s were going through unjust laws with the use of buses. Rosa Parks being one of the ~~first~~ ~~people~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~arrested~~ ~~for~~ ~~refusing~~ ~~to~~ ~~move~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~back~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~bus~~, due to her refusal of sitting in a white person's seat. During this time African Americans were still being segregated from the whites on buses. Whites had the ~~privilege~~ ~~of~~ ~~sitting~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~front~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~bus~~, while blacks were ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~back~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~bus~~. Because African Americans were tired of this they took it upon themselves to do a bus boycott. This meant that African Americans would not ride buses ~~full~~ ~~of~~ ~~people~~ ~~until~~ ~~they~~ ~~got~~ ~~what~~ ~~they~~ ~~wanted~~, which was to sit freely on the bus. Blacks were ~~harassed~~ ~~multiple~~ ~~times~~ ~~by~~ ~~whites~~. For example, Martin Luther King Jr's house was being ~~burned~~ ~~down~~, as well as receiving death threats because he was the leader of the movement. Another example, ~~taxi~~ ~~fares~~ ~~raised~~ ~~and~~ ~~people~~ ~~were~~ ~~either~~ ~~being~~ ~~arrested~~ ~~or~~ ~~being~~ ~~fined~~ ~~because~~ ~~of~~ ~~comparing~~. The whites did not want to ~~lose~~ ~~their~~ ~~business~~ ~~because~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~boycott~~.

is this why they wanted to stop the boycott?

they were illegal? That did not stop the African Americans though. Instead of a more violent approach, they used a more peaceful and loving response to how they are being treated. King Jr was visited by Bayard Rustin who was a journalist from New York and advised King to refer to Gandhi's peaceful protest.

Mr. King spoke to the people of the protest and referred to Gandhi as well as Bible verses to persuade them. He also said to use the weapon of "love" and not violence. The boycott was a huge process that lasted for 13 months and finally came to an end. The unjust law was changed by the use of bus boycotts. Violence was not needed for this process only time and patience which is how this changed history.

In addition, Gandhi also used Civil Disobedience to protest about the Salt Tax. The unjust law of the Salt March was that Indians were being highly taxed on salt by 2000%. These taxes hurt them spiritually as well as made them poor. Also, knowing salt was highly taxed, they were not able to make their own salt. Gandhi as well as 79 marchers, chose to march for 2000 mi salt to grab people's attention. Gandhi was a motivational person to his followers because of the speeches that he made. Not only this, but he also found a way to create illegal salt. This salt was made from the beach and people followed his ways. Lastly, Gandhi

wrote a letter to Lord Irwin speaking for Indian citizens saying they are tired of what the British are doing. Gandhi as well took this non-violent approach. Multiple men were killed or brutally injured when the British were beating them. He used the motto "weapon of love" to persuade the citizens not to fight back. Even though Gandhi was sent to jail, he did this to help his people, which was a success. Around 1945, the British rule against India ended and the unjust law was changed.

The use of violence isn't always needed if we are able to have patience with one another. People, even other countries do not understand that, if we are able to refer to both peaceful people, maybe things

people knew how to make salt - it was illegal he does this as a protest

He did this first