

[Bio:](#)

[Photo:](#)

Name:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natasha Thornton
Overview of Lesson:	<p>Adult and Family Literacy Course <i>Community, Literacy, and Liberation: Lessons from the Black Panther Party</i></p> <p>Students will explore how the Black Panther Party’s (BPP) principles and programming align with, and exceed, traditional family literacy models. The goal of family literacy programs is to support families by increasing literacy development for both children and parents and to foster economic self-sufficiency. Yet, these models are often not culturally informed, overlook or negate the rich historical and cultural literacy practices of Black families, and may not consider community-based literacy.</p>
Library of Congress Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://files.libcom.org/files/2024-02/Vol_III_N04_May_1969.pdf• https://files.libcom.org/files/2025-03/Vol_III_3_May_1969.pdf• https://www.loc.gov/item/2003688170/• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrZIEMrwVrw
Instruction for Task(s):	<p>Assignment Instructions</p> <p>For this assignment, you will engage with primary sources, specifically The Black Panther News newspaper, to identify key elements of the Black Panther Party’s work that highlight the literacy strengths of Black families and communities. You will examine how these elements both align with and exceed traditional family literacy models.</p> <p>Students will create a text-based info graphic that addresses the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How has the Black Panther Party served as a model for literacy development, community strength, economic uplift, and advocacy within the Black community?• In what ways does the Black Panther Party’s programming exceed traditional family literacy models?• How do Black Panther Party programs align with themes presented in the Bearing Witness

article, which highlights the rich histories of literacy engagement, resistance, and advocacy within families of color?

- Why is it important to highlight the Black Panther Party's community literacy and educational work serve as an act of truth-telling and a centering of Black people's commitment to our own literacy development and liberation.

Student Work:

- Provide an example of a student's completed the task.
- Please remove their name.

THEN AND NOW
THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY INFLUENCE ON EDUCATION

Panther Post!
The Black Panther Party has gone above and beyond in terms of serving as a model for literacy, advocacy, economic uplift, and community strength.
Go through the mail below to see what the panther's work truly looked like.

Literacy
The Black Panther Party didn't see literacy based on just one's age in the traditional literacy model, because literacy is an ideological, age-based, Black Panther, however, believed in teaching the youth to acquire literacy skills and to be engaged in literacy acts, the literacy which is a more complete literacy, you were never viewed as too young to learn.

Advisory
Traditional literacy models present literacy as a one-way transmission of knowledge from the expert to the learner. However, the Black Panther Party engaged in a more holistic approach to literacy, one that was not just about the mechanics of reading, but also about the social and political context of literacy. The Black Panther Party's literacy program was a form of resistance, a way to empower the oppressed and to challenge the status quo.

Economic Uplift
Economic uplift was a central goal of the Black Panther Party. The party believed that literacy was a key to economic empowerment. The Black Panther Party's literacy program was a form of resistance, a way to empower the oppressed and to challenge the status quo.

Community Strength
The Black Panther Party's literacy program was a form of resistance, a way to empower the oppressed and to challenge the status quo. The party believed that literacy was a key to economic empowerment. The Black Panther Party's literacy program was a form of resistance, a way to empower the oppressed and to challenge the status quo.

Newspapers
Liberation Schools

Free Huey Rallies
Sacramento Capitol Protest

Numerous FREE opportunities
"Full employment for our people" point 2 of the 10-point program

Free Breakfast Programs
Sickle Cell Testing

STAMPED IN HISTORY
APPROVED

The Black Panther Party has stamped itself as a pillar of what it looks like to lead the charge for educational opportunities for the Black community. It is important to discuss these acts because they highlight the drive that the party had to not let racism, limited resources, or external factors serve as justification to limit the black education. The panthers were described as the "vanguard of the revolution" and their acts prove to be just that! Actions like the Free Breakfast Program, preserving history through newspaper articles, and more serve as a living testament to the foundation that the Black Panther Party laid for future educational success.

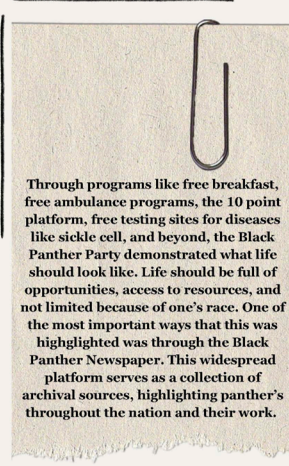
Cross Literary Connections

How the Black Panther Party is similar to themes presented in Bearing Witness

Family centered education	A mother in Mexico City carrying documents to advocate on behalf of her family	Parents leading the BPP Breakfast program
Positive results in safe spaces	A student who struggled in public school did notably better in Sunday School	The BPP revolutionized school spaces by starting institutions like the Oakland Community School

Several themes come to fruition between the Black Panther Party and the "Bearing Witness" article. As you learn more about education and the way it's been influenced, never forget these key themes:

Families and their presence matters
 We NEED to bridge the gap between the classroom and our homes
 The BPP has set the tone for the positive effects to a family centered education from the beginning, and the families of color showcased in "Bearing Witness", are an example of that.
 It is crucial that black experiences are heard from the black perspective

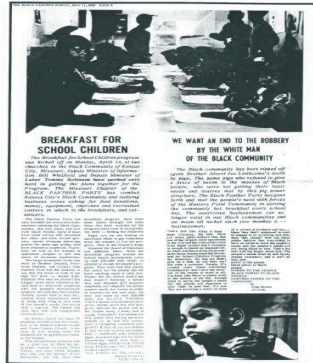


Through programs like free breakfast, free ambulance programs, the 10 point platform, free testing sites for diseases like sickle cell, and beyond, the Black Panther Party demonstrated what life should look like. Life should be full of opportunities, access to resources, and not limited because of one's race. One of the most important ways that this was highlighted was through the Black Panther Newspaper. This widespread platform serves as a collection of archival sources, highlighting panther's throughout the nation and their work.

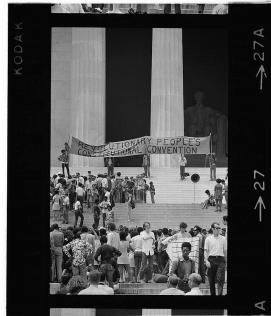
Images:

- Add 2-3 images from the archive that align with your lesson.

Image from The Black Panther Newspaper of children participating in the Breakfast for School program being served by Black Panther members.



1970 Black Panther Convention at the Lincoln Memorial



• Front page of The Black Panther News commemorating the life and legacy of Malcolm X after his assassination..

