

Information Essay

Mrs. Eller's Example

1st Reason Paragraph

Unfair Voting Laws

One example of unfair Jim Crow laws was that they often prevented Black people from voting because they didn't "qualify." Although they were legally allowed to vote, they had to meet a lot of requirements that white people did not have to meet. For example, Black people often couldn't pay unfair poll taxes because they were typically very poor and couldn't afford it. In addition, often the law said that you had to own property to vote and most Black people couldn't afford to buy property. They also had to take literacy tests which were different from the tests white people took. White people might just read one short sentence to prove they could read. Black people often had to read an entire page and answer questions about it. Because schooling was so bad for Black people this was hard. Many of them couldn't even read or write. Also the passages and questions were often about the constitution. But it was often against the Jim Crow rules for Black kids to be taught about the constitution. The worst problem was that white people would hang out at polling sites, and if a Black person tried to vote they were often beaten up. So overall, most Black people were not able to vote.