



LONE STAR JUSTICE ALLIANCE

Documentary Video Response: *I Am Not Your Negro*

I Am Not Your Negro is an unapologetic and direct title. What was your initial reaction when you first heard the film's title? Explain.

During an interview on the Dick Cavett show, shown at the beginning of the film, James Baldwin is asked, "Is it at once getting much better and still hopeless?" What does Dick Cavett mean when he asks this question? How does James Baldwin respond?

In 1957, protests took place regarding the integration of Little Rock, Arkansas' Central High School. During these protests, a photo was taken of a 15-year-old, named Dorothy Counts. How did this photo make you feel? What emotions did it provoke?

During the brief *King Kong* scene, James Baldwin states that he began to “suspect white people did not act as they did because they were white, but for some other reason.” What do you think Baldwin means when he says this?

Of the three men (Medgar Evers, Martin Luther King Jr., and Malcolm X) Baldwin writes about, which did you learn about most? Did you already know a lot about one or more of these men? If so, did you learn anything new from the film?

In this documentary, clips of different films such as *The Monsters Walk*, *Imitation of Life*, *The Defiant Ones*, and many more are shown. Which film clip stood out to you the most? Explain why.

What are similarities between events shown in the film and what is occurring in our country, and communities more recently?