



# Ayanna Najuma: In Her Own Words

Create an imaginary interview with Ayanna and other members of the sit-ins. The interview should communicate main ideas you learned about the sit-in movement. Cut apart the quotes below from Ayanna and choose at least three to use in your interview. Keep your role play to three minutes or less.

- 1 "When you're going north, there's a great deal of equality...we were able to stop at bus stations, we were able to stop at restaurants, a variety of things...without any discrimination."
- 2 "So, when we got back, the kids sat amongst themselves and had a conversation about 'Wow, look what we saw in New York. Wasn't that fabulous? This was amazing! Why can't we do that here?'"
- 3 "[The NAACP Youth Council] allowed us to learn about...activism...and the messaging from Dr. King, 'Number one in your life's blueprint should be a deep belief in your own dignity, in your own worth and your own somebodiness.'"
- 4 "Also, it allowed us to travel around the country...and meet children...from other cities...And so it gave us another perspective on the world that most children just didn't get."
- 5 "We would walk in...all dressed in our...church clothes...and everybody was very respectful to the waitresses and asked for a hamburger and a Coke...The waitresses were not nice people. 'What are you doing here?' 'Go ahead and take your stuff and leave...You're not supposed to be here. Get out!'...When people would say nasty things, we would just smile and keep it respectful."
- 6 "They would pour coffee on us, they would do things that you wouldn't think that would be done because we were children. And they would do it in front of their children, which even made it more embarrassing... What kind of example are you setting for your child?"
- 7 "We were taught about...Dr. King, about how to carry ourselves if we were spoken to in a certain kind of way or someone spat on us or if we were pushed and knocked down...And so it was very easy to keep the...nonviolence...because we were trained for [it]."
- 8 "I was taught to believe that anything I wanted to do, I could do. That I was just as good as anybody but not better than anybody. So, with the positive attitudes and...hard work, the sky was the limit."
- 9 "Even though I was little, my voice was just as important as everyone else's voice."

SOURCE: "Civil Rights with Ayanna Najuma" podcast. Richard Janes Entertainment and Entrepreneurship. <https://apple.co/3dNvrKg>, <https://bit.ly/30tLf1Q>.