

Handout A: Eisenhower and the Little Rock Crisis Answer Key

1. The *Plessy* case upheld mandated segregation in public rail cars. The *Brown* decision rejected that reasoning with respect to segregation in public schools, holding that segregated schools were inherently unequal. *Brown II* addressed the means by which integration should take place and dictated that it occur “with all deliberate speed.”
2. The “Little Rock Crisis” took place when the Governor of Arkansas refused to intervene when a mob prevented nine African American students from attending their school. A federal court had approved their desegregation plan as consistent with the *Brown* ruling and ordered integration to begin.
3. President Eisenhower ordered the mob to disperse. When it did not, he sent the 101st Airborne Division to keep the peace. He also federalized the Arkansas National Guard, removing those men from the governor’s command.
4. President Eisenhower described his constitutional duty to take care that the laws were faithfully executed as “inescapable.”
5. Students may say that the Constitution says the states and the people keep all the powers not given to the federal government and that therefore states are rightfully in charge of matters such as public education. They may also say that Article II says the president is commander-in-chief of the militia of the several states when called into actual service of the states, but that it does not say who can call them into service. Since Congress can declare war and provide for calling forth the militia, perhaps it is also Congress’s power to call the militia into service.