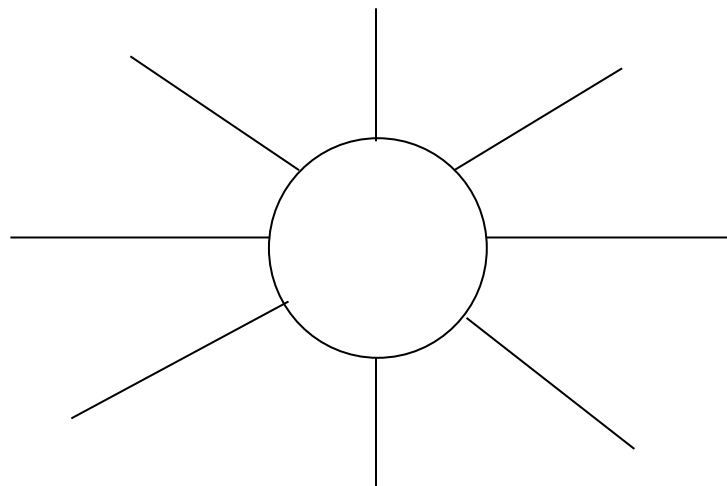


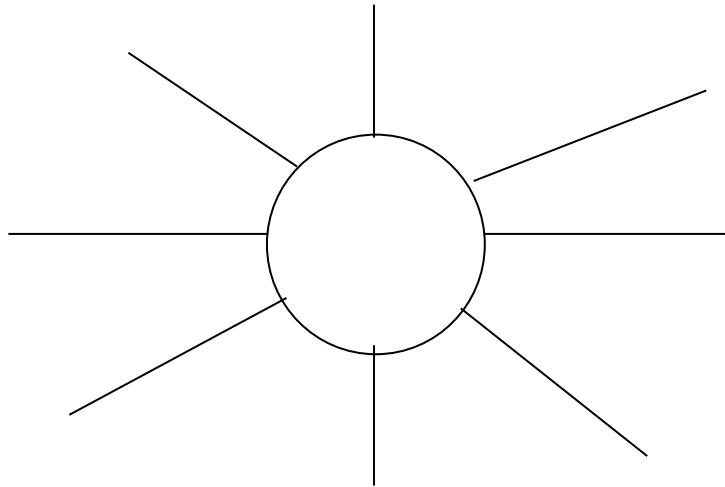
Mississippi Trial, 1955 **Choosing to Participate**

Directions: While reading chapters 4-8 of *Mississippi Trial, 1955* and watching the *Little Things Are Big* and *Not in Our Town* video clips, answer the following questions. Video clips are found on our class website.

1. What dilemma does Jesus Colon face on the subway?
2. What would you have done if you were in his shoes?
3. Jesus describes the labels that others have placed on him. How did those labels shape the way he perceived his choices and the decision he made?
4. Why does he have regrets?
5. Did he make the right choice? Why? Would your answer be different if he were a white American?
6. Who is the victim in this story-Colon, the woman, or the larger society? Why?
7. What does Jesus Colon's story and Hiram Hilburn's story have in common?
(Think about what RC did to Emmett and how Hiram reacted.)
8. Create an identity chart for Hiram Hilburn. It contains words individuals call themselves as well as the labels society gives them. What words could Hiram use to describe himself? What words might others use to describe him? Include both on the diagram.



9. How did those labels shape the way Hiram perceived his choices and the decision he made?
10. Create an identity chart for Emmett Till. It contains words individuals call themselves as well as the labels society gives them. What words could Emmett use to describe himself? What words might others use to describe him? Include both on the diagram.



Directions: After watching the *Not in Our Town* video clip, answer the following questions.

11. What does Sarah Anthony mean when she says, "We did something right here, and we will do it again if we have to. If we don't, there are people who would break every window in Billings, and we would look in those windows and see ourselves"?
12. Marian Wright Edelman believes that "the good people's silence" can be "as damaging as the bad people's actions." How could this relate to Hiram's silence when Emmett was being bullied by RC?
13. Create a different ending to Hiram's story. What do you think Hiram might have done? How do you think RC and Emmet might have responded to the action you have imagined for Hiram? Describe the effect of that action on Hiram.