

Classroom Activity #3: Three African American Inventions/Innovations for the Technology of Their Time

Your Name	
Facilitator <i>(1 point extra)</i>	<i>Facilitators must follow all tasks to get the extra point.</i>

SUBMIT THIS WORKSHEET AT THE END OF CLASS.

The Scenario	Your Ideas for Innovations/Inventions Based on the Technology of Your Time
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Scenario #1</u></p> <p>You are the most popular Blues singer of the 1930s, arguably America’s first home-grown form of popular music. You are also the highest paid Black entertainer in the country. Because of Jim Crow/race-segregation, your band, dancers, singers, and other performers can only travel in the segregated parts of the train. Hotels will not give you or your team a room or dinner because you are Black; only Black hotels will let you stay with them and there just aren’t that many. In fact, you are not allowed to use the front door of the clubs and bars where you perform because you are Black. You have to enter through the back door. Most Black folx are not allowed to come see you perform at such places either. What will you do for yourself and how? What will you do for your band and team? What will you do for Black fans and patrons? Be as DETAILED AS POSSIBLE.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Scenario #2</u></p> <p>More and more middle-class African Americans are beginning to buy cars in the 1940s and 1950s. They want to take road trips to visit family and enjoy</p>	

summer vacations together. You are an African American postal worker and can see each day how much mail African Americans are sending their loved ones across the country. You also know that it is not safe for African Americans to drive long distances. Police and KKK harassment is routine. Restaurants will not serve you. Hotels will not let you stay there. You also need to avoid any and every sundown town—you shouldn't even drive through one during the day TBH. What will you create to help African Americans who want to travel for work or vacation (or later, Civil Rights Movement participation) via driving. Be as DETAILED AS POSSIBLE.

Scenario #3

This time we will think more generally. Food service also has a deep history of racial segregation. For example, TCU's faculty dining hall, as just one example, was once on South University Drive. African Americans worked there, but they were not allowed on South University Drive and could only enter buildings from the back. Required codes of back door entrances, back room food preparation away from guests, and silence and invisibility while serving were expected of African Americans well after slavery. What industry is run that way today? Who do you think invented it? How might this "invention" be related to technology and technological change?