

## Definitions

- **Reform** is when people work to change something for the better without totally getting rid of it. *Reform is like fixing your car. You keep the same car, but you make it better by getting new tires.*
- **Revolution** is when people want major change. They want to do things in an entirely new way, or completely change the way people think about something. *Revolution is like buying a new car instead of fixing the old one, or inventing a whole new kind of transportation.*
- **Reaction** is how someone or something responds to something that happens.

## Do I need to have all three in my project?

No! It's going to depend on your topic. Some topics are about reform - people working within the system to make things better. Some topics are about revolution - people trying to change the system completely. Some might be about both!

All topics will have reaction. This could be the “spark” for your topic - the thing that set the revolution or reform into motion. This could also be the impact - how people responded to or changed things because of your topic.

## For Example: Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

In 1955, a law in Montgomery, Alabama said that African Americans had to sit at the back of city buses. They also had to give up their seats to white riders if the front of the bus was full. The 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution says that all citizens have equal rights. Some people believed that separating people on buses was unfair.

Many African Americans in Montgomery **reacted** to these unfair laws. Rosa Parks was one of them. She drew attention to the situation by being arrested for not giving up her bus seat to a white passenger. After her arrest, a group in Montgomery called the Women's Political Council asked people to stop riding buses until the city changed the law. This became known as the Montgomery Bus Boycott. People walked or rode in carpools instead of taking the bus for more than a year. The boycott ended after the United States Supreme Court agreed that segregation was unfair.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott was the first large protest in the Civil Rights Movement. This movement fought to **reform** the rights and opportunities of African Americans. Reporters visiting Montgomery shared the story across the country. More people learned about how nonviolent protest can change unfair situations. The boycott **revolutionized** how people fought for civil rights in America.