

Name _____

Date _____ Hour _____

Ghosts of Mississippi

1. Prosecutor DeLaughter asserted that reopening the wound left by the Medgar Evers' assassination and retrying a 70 year old man, cleansed the wound and allowed it to heal, rather than to fester and poison future generations. Do you agree with his assessment or do you think that the retrial unnecessarily opened old wounds?

2. What factors had changed over time in American society that may have influenced both the efforts to prosecute the case against de la Beckwith and the eventual guilty verdict?

3. How would you compare the failure of the all-white juries in 1963 and 1964 to convict de la Beckwith and the acquittal of O.J. Simpson on charges of murdering his wife in 1995?

4. Why was it important to retry the case and bring de la Beckwith to justice, even if justice had been delayed for so long?

5. Would you consider prosecutor Bobby DeLaughter to be courageous? Wasn't he just doing his job?