

Name:

Date:

Period:

Scottsboro: An American Tragedy

While viewing and discussing, in class, the documentary, please use complete sentences to thoughtfully answer each of the following questions (*you may write directly on this worksheet*):

- 1.) How did the nine Scottsboro defendants each gain his freedom? Please list and explain each.
- 2.) How much time did the four men who were never tried spend in prison before their release?
- 3.) How did the socio-economic background of both the accusers and the defendants help shape the events of the case?
- 4.) According to the American Communist Party, how did the Scottsboro case demonstrate one of the evils of the American capitalist system?
- 5.) Why was this controversy named after Scottsboro?
- 6.) Please explain why the location of the alleged crime helped cause the judge to doubt the women's testimony.
- 7.) In the Supreme Court case *Powell v. Alabama* of 1932, the Court ruled that the Scottsboro defendants were denied the right to counsel, which violated their right to due process under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. What is meant by the phrase "right to counsel"? According to the Court, how had the Scottsboro defendants been denied this right?
- 8.) In the Supreme Court case *Norris v. Alabama* of 1935, the Court ruled that the exclusion of blacks from jury rolls deprived black defendants of their rights to equal protection under the law. What was the main evidence that blacks had been excluded from jury rolls? Why would this exclusion deprive black defendants of their rights to equal protection under the law?
- 9.) If you were advising the defendants of the Scottsboro trials, would you take the jury's possible prejudices into account in selecting a lawyer and a funding source, or would that only strengthen and support the prejudices you were attempting to fight? Please explain your answer.

Please complete the chart below with information revealed in the documentary. You should include age, background information, sentencing information, appeals, life after the trial, socio-economic status, etc.

| <u>Person</u> | <u>Important Information</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bates, Ruby | |
| Callahan, Judge | |
| Horton, Judge | |

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| | |
| Leibowitz, Sam | |
| Montgomery, Olen | |
| Norris, Clarence | |
| Patterson, Haywood | |
| Powell, Ozie | |
| Price, Victoria | |
| Roberson, Willie | |
| Weems, Charlie | |
| Williams, Eugene | |
| Wright, Andrew | |
| Wright, Roy | |

