

**Concept Circle** to develop understanding of key words related to the Civil Rights Movement. Give handout for Concept Circle to each group as students finish previous discussion (my students will have used this strategy before). The Concept Circle is adapted from Vacca and Vacca's *Content Area Reading* (1986) in Janet Allen's *Words, Words, Words: Teaching Vocabulary in Grades 4-12* (1999). In Allen's version, students are given a circle divided into quarters. Each quarter contains a word or phrase. The students' task is to describe or name the concept to which all of these words/phrases relate, so they must first determine the meanings, then analyze the connections between them, and finally, think of a "topic" word or phrase to tie them all together. I have adapted the strategy to include more terms. I like my version because it allows inclusion of two more elements related to the topic in a way that students pre-teach themselves, and it also gives them a few more clues to help them identify the topic. In this type of activity I make available encyclopedias and dictionaries, and each group can send a couple of students to the computers (6 with internet access in my room). I have them divide up the terms within their group; each finds information to identify, define, or explain his/her assigned term, then they discuss the relationships and identify the topic (Civil Rights Movement--I'll give hints if needed), record each others' information (bullets in squares), and keep the handout in their notes.

# CONCEPT CIRCLE

What concept do all of these words and names relate to? Find information about each; list the information you find below the term in each box (use bullet form). Confer in your group to decide what the concept is.

