

Options for Launch Activity to Introduce the Lesson

Option 1:

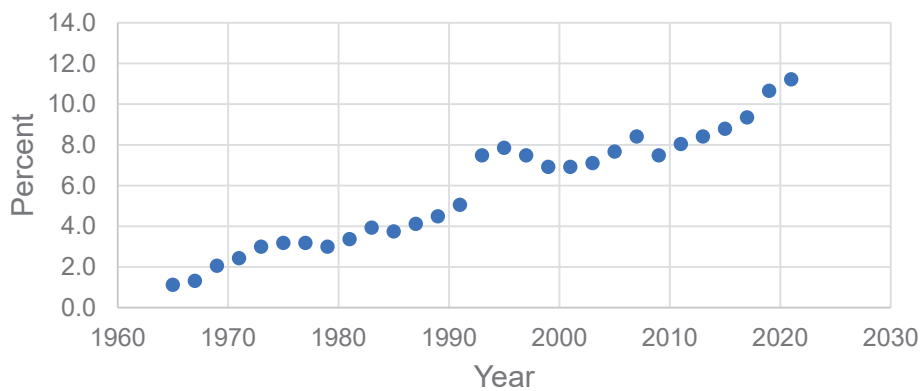
- Begin the lesson by giving portions (perhaps the math-related questions?) of one of the “literacy tests” that were given to Black Americans trying to register to vote.
- Lead a brief discussion to continue the Launch at “Explain the following information.”

Option 2:

- Show the following clips from the 2014 film *Selma*:
 - 5:50 – 8:45: Annie Lee Cooper (Oprah Winfrey) attempting to register to vote in Dallas County, AL
 - 56:26 – 58:26 Scene depicting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., James Bevel, Hosea Williams, and other members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) discussing a variety of voter suppression tactics that they want to see addressed in voting rights legislation
- Lead a brief discussion to continue the Launch at “Explain the following information.”

Solutions and graphs for *Student Worksheet*

Percent of U.S. Congress Who Were Black
Since the Voting Rights Act of 1965



Year	% Black	Year	% Black	Year	% Black	Year	% Black
1965	1.1	1981	3.4	1997	7.5	2013	8.4
1967	1.3	1983	3.9	1999	6.9	2015	8.8
1969	2.1	1985	3.7	2001	6.9	2017	9.3
1971	2.4	1987	4.1	2003	7.1	2019	10.7
1973	3.0	1989	4.5	2005	7.7	2021	11.2
1975	3.2	1991	5.0	2007	8.4	2023	
1977	3.2	1993	7.5	2009	7.5	2025	
1979	3.0	1995	7.9	2011	8.0	2027	

[NOTE: You might consider suggesting starting “year” at 0, or “years since 1965.”]

- The equations that students generate will likely be linear equations, in which case they should be close to the equation that is produced from an ordinary least squares regression analysis: $y = .0126 + 0.0016x$, where y represents the percent of Congress members who are Black and x represents the number of years since 1965. Solving for x when y is 0.13 (the target percentage so that Congress resembles the U.S. population with respect to Black American representation) suggests that we will cross that threshold around the year 2038 (or 2039, with the 126th Congress).

