

Name _____

Brown V. Board of Education – Primary Source Excerpt Analysis

Chief Justice Earl Warren – Majority Opinion

“To separate them [Black children] from others of similar age and qualifications solely because of their race generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect their hearts and minds in a way unlikely ever to be undone.”



Questions for Analysis

1. Interpret the Message:

In your own words, explain what the Supreme Court is saying about the psychological impact of school segregation. Why might this argument be powerful in court?

2. Author's Purpose:

Why do you think Chief Justice Warren focused on emotional and psychological harm instead of only using legal language?

3. Tone and Word Choice:

Identify one or two emotionally charged words or phrases from the passage. What effect do they have on the reader?

4. Constitutional Connection:

Even though this excerpt doesn't name the 14th Amendment, how does it support the idea of "equal protection under the law"?