

DO NOW EXERCISE: NONVIOLENCE

Read the following passages aloud one at a time. Have students choose one compelling phrase that adds to their understanding of nonviolence.

- 1 “I had not, before meeting Dr. King, ever taken the option of violence off the table. We are a minority living in the belly of the beast. When Dr. King stepped in, he methodically would look at violence and challenge those who would seek the gun as the solution, because morally, you cannot defeat the enemy by becoming the enemy.” - Harry Belafonte, *The King in the Wilderness*
- 2 “Nonviolence had the power to pull the worst fever out of them and show our moral strength. They had the stick, we had the Bible.”
- Jesse Jackson, *The King in the Wilderness*
- 3 **REPORTER:**
Mr. Carmichael, are you as committed to the nonviolent approach as Dr. King is?

STOKELY CARMICHAEL:

No, I'm not.

REPORTER:

Why aren't you?

STOKELY CARMICHAEL:

Well, I just don't see it as a way of life. I never have. I grew up in the slums of New York and I learned there that the only way that one survived was to use his fists. I realized the reality –

BERNARD LAFAYETTE, JR.:

When Stokely became chairman of SNCC, he had a different approach.

STOKELY CARMICHAEL:

For me, it's always been a tactic and never a way of life.

BERNARD LAFAYETTE, JR.:

He believed in self-defense.

Background Note: Stokely Carmichael was head of the SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) from 1966 to 1967.