

January 11, 2007

Dear Mr. Scott,

There are a few important things that you should know about that happened after you died, because you helped change the United States of America. As you know, when you were in court, the Judges nullified the Missouri Compromise. But after you died, there was a big war for four years, because the people in the North were afraid that slavery would spread, and they loathed it. (I agree with them.)

Fortunately, the North won the Civil War, and our President Abraham Lincoln wrote the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed the slaves. You would've loved it!

For a long time after the Emancipation, there was legal segregation between African American and white people. For example, African Americans were not allowed to go to school with white kids. In 1954, the Supreme Court, the one you went to court with, decreed that there wasn't going to be any more segregation in schools. Now, I go to school and play with kids of all color, and I enjoy it!

Other things that were segregated were water fountains and seats on the bus. Rosa Parks, an African American woman, is famous for standing up for her rights, just like you. In 1955, Rosa Parks sat at the front of the bus instead of the back, where African Americans were supposed to sit. This helped push off a nationwide controversy. Then, eight years later, an African American man named Martin Luther King (A southern Baptist church minister) made a speech commonly known as "I have a Dream." He made this speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., in front of a crowd