**\*\*Name:\*\* Marcus Jameson**   **\*\*Age:\*\* 23**  \*\***Inclusion, Violent, Political\*\***

**\*\*Background:\*\***

Marcus Jameson was born and raised in Oakland, California. Growing up in a working-class neighborhood, he witnessed the daily struggles and systemic injustices faced by the African American community. His parents, both factory workers, instilled in him the values of hard work, resilience, and pride in his heritage. Marcus excelled in school, showing a keen interest in history and social justice.

**\*\*Beliefs on Inclusion:\*\***

Marcus quickly became an active member of SNCC, participating in sit-ins, freedom rides, and voter registration drives in the South, which were all inclusive movements with white and black activists. He admired the courage of SNCC leaders like John Lewis and Stokely Carmichael and their dedication to achieving equality across racial lines. His belief in integration and working together with all races of people in the struggle for equality were heavily influenced by Martin Luther King Jr.’s speech, “I Have A Dream,” when he said,

**“I have a dream that … right down in Alabama little Black boys and Black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today.”** **-Martin Luther King Jr.**

**\*\*Beliefs on Violence:\*\***

In 1965, Marcus participated in the March to Montgomery, also known as Bloody Sunday for the racial violence on the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Marcus was brutally injured by police batons and tear gas. A year later, Marcus heard Huey Newton and Bobby Seale, co-founders of the Black Panther Party, at a community event in Oakland. He was deeply moved by their message of black empowerment and self-defense. The Panthers' approach resonated with Marcus, who had grown frustrated with the slow progress of nonviolent methods and his inability to protect himself during protests. The words of Huey Newton, co-founder of the Black Panther Party struck home with Marcus, and became influential in his thoughts on self-defense:

**“Sometimes if you want to get rid of the gun, you have to pick the gun up.”**

**― Huey P. Newton- co-founder of the Black Panther Party**

**\*\* Ideas on how to achieve Equality\*\***

In college, Marcus studied the competing beliefs of W.E.B. Dubois and Booker T. Washington in regards to how to best achieve equality. Marcus, having listened to the words of Stokely Carmichael, saw the fight for voting rights, fair representation, and the end of discriminatory laws as essential steps toward empowering African Americans to secure better jobs, housing, and education. Marcus was convinced that without political power, economic disparities would continue to widen. This belief fueled his dedication to both SNCC’s voter registration drives, such as the Selma movement, and the Mississippi Freedom Summer campaign.

**“I knew I could vote all the time and that it wasn’t a privilege but my right. Every time I tried I was shot, killed or jailed, beaten or economically deprived So somebody had to write a bill to tell white people, “When a black man comes to vote, don’t bother him.….How can white people who are the majority, and who are responsible for making democracy work, make it work? They have never made democracy work, be it inside the United States, Vietnam, South Africa, the Philippines, South America, Puerto Rico, or wherever America has been.”**  **-Stokely Carmichael, “*Black Power*”**