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# Homework

## Signs of Resilience



For years, the sign was covered with bullet holes. Set near a river in Mississippi, the sign remembered Emmett Till. It marked where Emmett Till's body was pulled from the river. This is an important spot in Civil Rights history. It is also a target for vandalism by White supremacists.

The first sign was raised on the site in 2008. However, it was stolen and never recovered. The second sign stood until 2016. It was covered with bullet holes for years before it was replaced. The third sign was shot up within just 35 days.

Some believed the sign should be left up with the bullet holes. "It's really indicative of the fact that racism is yet alive," said Airickca Gordon-Taylor. Gordon-Taylor is related to Emmett Till. She directs a foundation that preserves his memory.

In 2019, a new sign was put up. The new marker weighs over 500 pounds and is bulletproof. It is protected from vandalism by a layer of glass. New, motion-detecting cameras also help prevent vandalism. Gordon-Taylor appreciates how the new sign preserves the site's history. It explains how past signs were stolen and defaced. It reminds readers "of the progress yet to be made."

Source: "This Emmett Till memorial was vandalized again. And again. And again. Now, it's bulletproof," *The Washington Post*, October 20, 2019.

Should we replace important signs like this one when they are vandalized? Or is it better for people to see the bullet holes and remember "that racism is yet alive"?



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