

Directions: Read the oral history interview of Bobby Bardwell. Compare your experiences in school with Mr. Bardwell's by completing the T-Chart on the next page.

## Oral History Interview of Bobby Bardwell

Bobby Bardwell was born in Starkville, Mississippi on May 11, 1939, the son of Earl and Pearl Bardwell. He attended segregated schools in Starkville during the late 1940s and 1950s graduating from Henderson High School in 1960. Then he attended Mary Holmes College in West Point, Mississippi and Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Upon graduation from college, Mr. Bardwell served as an advertising sales agent for a Milwaukee newspaper. Mr. Bardwell was interviewed on January 23, 2015. An excerpt from that interview, about his school experiences, is below:

### Word Bank

**Circa:** about or around this time; approximately.

**Model T:** the first mass-produced automobile (built from 1908-1927) that was affordable.

**Oral History:** information obtained in interviews concerning personal experiences.

**Vividly:** clearly; a strong or clear impression.

1 I remember very vividly and very clear. We didn't have a gym. We didn't have  
 2 very many books. The books that we had, came from the Starkville High School  
 3 . . . They were passed down to us. So, we did the best that we could with them  
 4 and as we went through we had a principal—his name was W. C. Henderson . . .  
 5 They named that high school after him. But, he was a man I think that really,  
 6 really pushed education . . . I really respected our principal because he pushed  
 7 education so hard . . . There were times—I can remember vividly—the bus  
 8 system wasn't in operation at that time [Bobby and his friends walked to school].  
 9 Then, he had one of these Model T Fords—our principal did—and he used go pick  
 10 up some of the kids that was a pretty good ways away, he would go and pick  
 11 them up and bring them to school . . . During that era, they came in and started  
 12 building . . . Henderson High School [circa 1949] . . . We didn't get a gym even  
 13 after they started that until 1956. . . . I remember when they put the first piece of  
 14 steel up for our gymnasium . . . And everybody was so happy because we had  
 15 played basketball on the ground. We were so enthused, so happy about that  
 16 gym going up. And after the gym got up, no one had to tell anybody at school to  
 17 not walk on the floors . . . No one had to tell—I mean the people in authority—  
 18 no one had to tell you that, your classmate would tell you. They were so proud  
 19 of it.

Directions: describe your schooling experience writing a complete sentence for each of the categories listed in the T-Chart below. Then, review Mr. Bardwell’s description of his school experiences and write a one-sentence summary (*a brief statement of the main points*) for each of the schooling categories listed below.

### T-Chart

Your Schooling Experience	Mr. Bardwell’s Schooling Experience
Years of School Attendance:	
Textbooks:	
Transportation:	
Principal:	
Gymnasium:	