Connecting Past and Present

"History does not repeat itself... What it does is reflect." — Dr. Yohuru Williams

Directions: Compare the key events from 1942 and 2015. Analyze how history reflects present-day struggles for civil rights and police accountability and respond to each prompt with evidence.

1942: Private Thomas E. Broadus	2015: Freddie Gray
Key Event: Fatal shooting by Baltimore City police officer (April 1942).	**Key Event:** Arrest and fatal spinal injury in police transport van (April 2015).
Community Response: March on Annapolis; 2,000+ demonstrators march to the State House.	**Community Response:** Demonstrations, civil unrest, and activist mobilization across Baltimore.
Media & Mobilization: Baltimore Afro-American newspaper coverage and community organizer leadership.	**Media & Mobilization:** Social media coverage, national news, and local community leadership.
Government Response: Governor O'Conor establishes an investigative commission to recommend reforms.	**Government Response:** Judicial charges, Department of Justice investigation, and city police reforms.

Prompt 1: Historical Reflection

In what ways does the response to Freddie Gray's death in 2015 reflect the response to Thomas Broadus' killing in 1942?

Prompt 2: Analysis

How do these two events reflect broader themes, struggles, and patterns in American history regarding civil rights and police accountability?

Prompt 3: Key Differences

How do the circumstances, social contexts, and responses in these two situations differ?

Thinkport