

## Capstone Abstract

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Central High School located in Little Rock, Arkansas, has long been the flag bearer for Southern integration of public schools. This school, however, was not the first Southern school to integrate, nor was it the first school to experience opposition toward integration. Those distinctions are held by Oak Ridge High School in Oak Ridge, TN and Clinton High School in Clinton, TN respectively. Oak Ridge was the first Southern school to integrate, but faced little opposition because it was a city formed by Northerners and blacks. Clinton did face opposition because it was the first true Southern city to integrate. These two cities are separated by a few miles, but their stories are completely different because the people of Oak Ridge saw their integration as progress, while the people of Clinton saw integration as a threat to their democratic right.