Diane Nash searched for a way to challenge segregation at Fisk University in Tennessee. Nash emerged as a leader in the local civil rights movement due to her well-spoken, composed manner. In 1960 at age twenty-two, she became the leader of the Nashville sit-ins. The Nashville sit-ins spread to 69 cities across the United States and challenged segregation in restaurants and retail stores. Nash used her freedoms of speech and assembly to coordinate activist events throughout the 60s with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the Freedom Riders, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.