

Nils Baker

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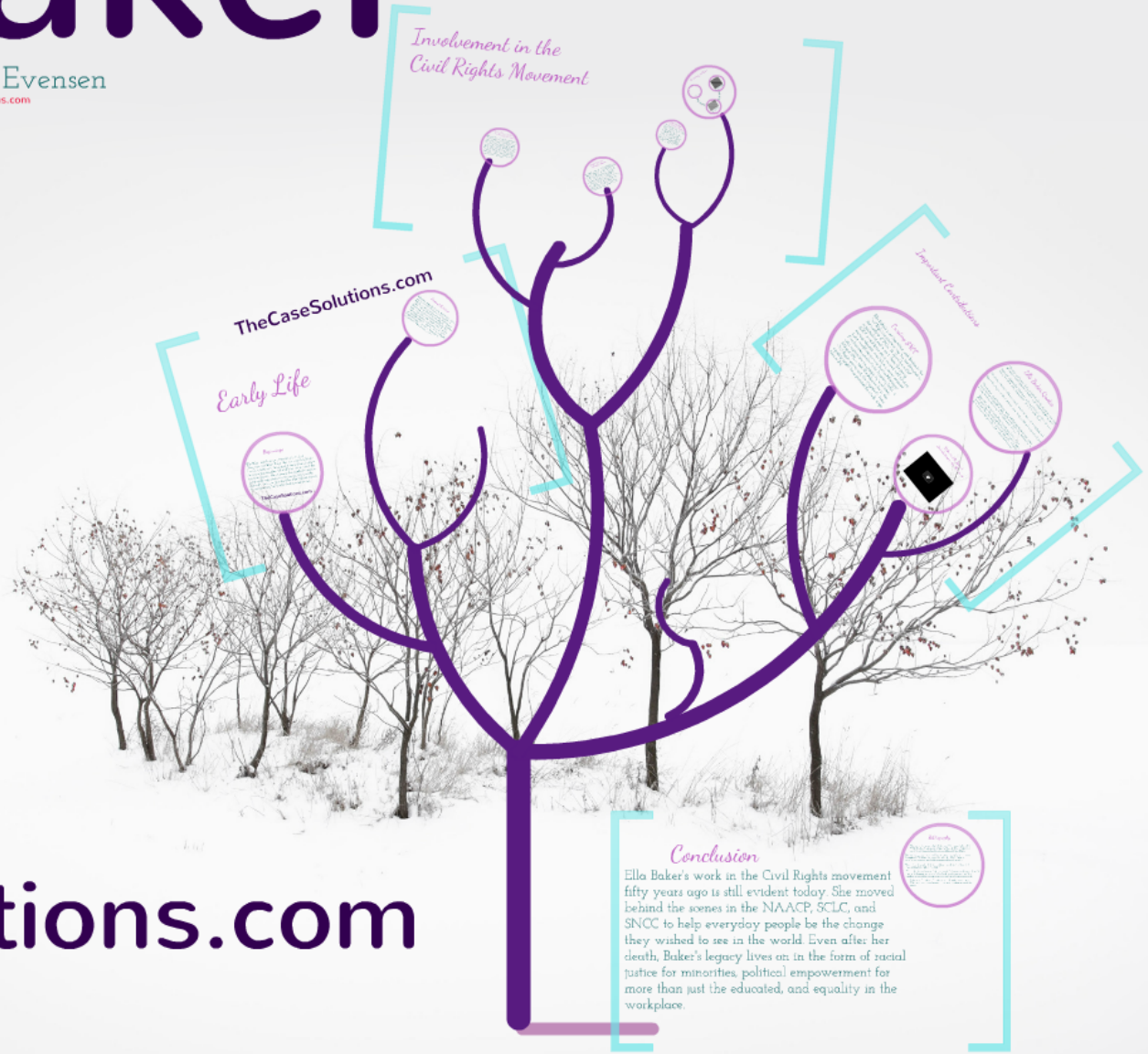
Baker speaking to Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party supporters

A Silent Leader

Ella Baker was an unsung hero of the Civil Rights movement. Working behind the scenes, she played crucial roles in the NAACP and the SCLC, even spearheading the creation of SNCC. She believed in empowering ordinary people to bring about change, and through her work, our country gained the social and economic justice it has today.

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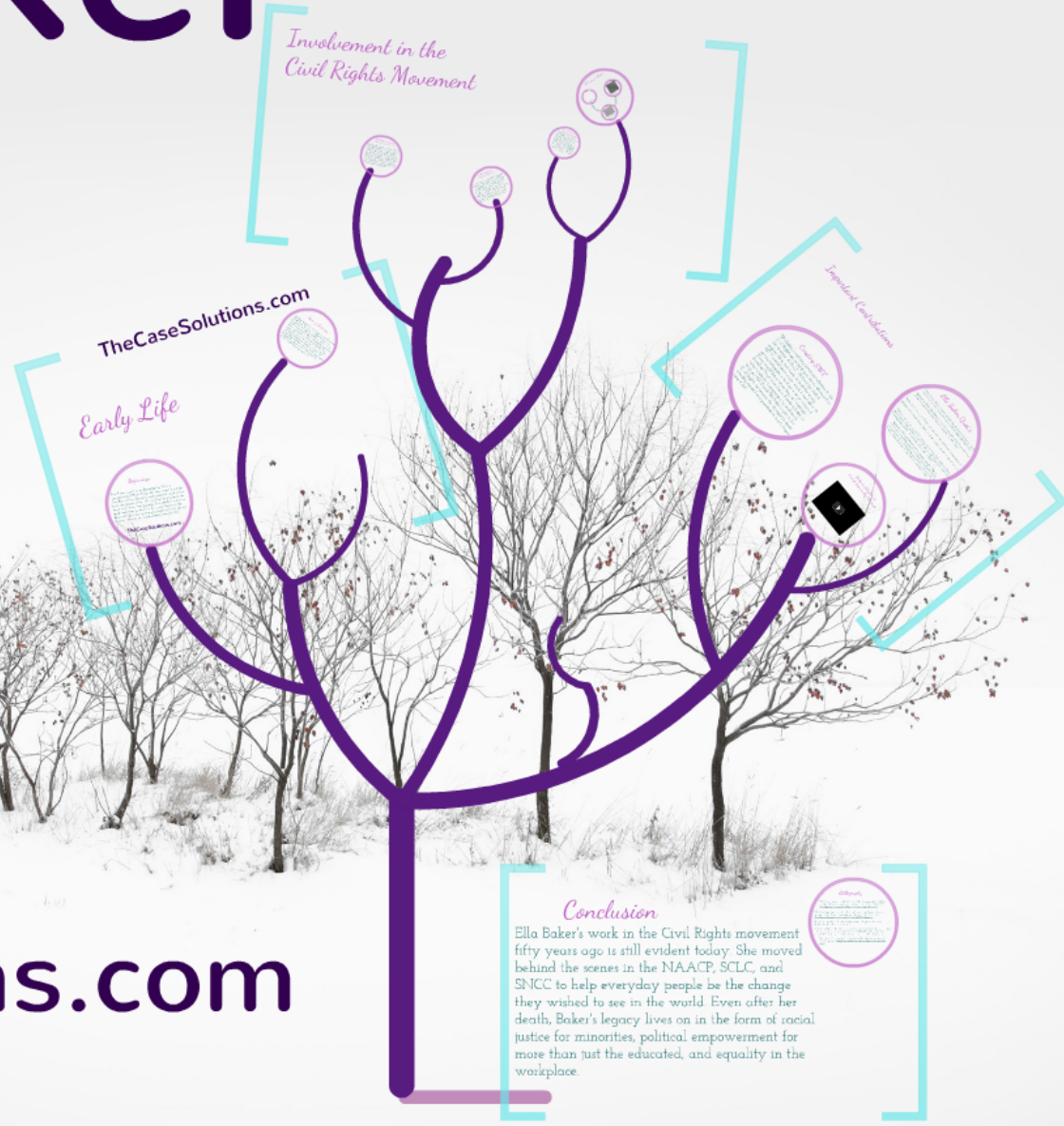
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Early Life

Involvement in the Civil Rights Movement

Important Contributions

Conclusion

Ella Baker's work in the Civil Rights movement fifty years ago is still evident today. She moved behind the scenes in the NAACP, SCLC, and SNCC to help everyday people be the change they wished to see in the world. Even after her death, Baker's legacy lives on in the form of racial justice for minorities, political empowerment for more than just the educated, and equality in the workplace.

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70 Over a Lifetime

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Early Life

Beginnings

Ella Baker was born on December 13, 1903, to Georgiana and Blake Baker. She was raised in North Carolina, where she developed a sense of social justice from her grandmother, who told her stories about her times as a slave. Her grandmother instilled a sense of pride and independence in the young Baker as she listened to how her grandmother rebelled and refused to marry a man her master had selected for her.

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Roots of Activism

Ella Baker began her work as an activist during her college years. She attended Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, eventually graduating as valedictorian in 1927. While attending the university, Baker challenged school policies she thought were unfair. After college, she moved to New York City and quickly became involved in several women's groups. Baker helped to organize the Young Negro Cooperative League in 1928, with the goal of advocating for Black economic power.

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