

Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was born in a middle class family on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. He grew up where segregation and discrimination was normalized towards African Americans and other people of color, especially in the south. Dr. King did not find this fair and he was not afraid to speak up about this horrible situation. Dr. King was also an activist who is known today for trying to desegregate the United States and its people.

Dr. King gave a speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on August 28, 1963, and this whole event was called the March On Washington. More than 200,000 people showed up for this protest for jobs and freedom, but most importantly for Dr. Martin Luther King's speech, "I Have A Dream". In King's speech, he envisioned a future where people of all colors in America would live a peaceful life together and be able to share the same liberties as others. Also, the dream that "My four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." By saying this, he thought the best way for people to be judged was not by their looks but their personality, how they treat others, and how they act. Therefore, the only way we can achieve this as a nation is if we all work together, and as Dr. King quotes, "With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. envisioned a world of freedom and peace between all African Americans and all people of other races to live together without discrimination. People today should still be inspired by Dr. King and his dream because segregation and discrimination is not as common today but discrimination still happens a lot. Back then, around the 50's and 60's, African Americans couldn't sit at the same lunch tables as white people, use the same bathrooms or water fountains as them, or attend the same schools as them. That type of discrimination doesn't happen today. Although Black people and other races aren't segregated today, there is still discrimination today towards people of color.

Today, people may also experience discrimination because of their religion or because of disabilities. Dr. King's dream was for African Americans and other people of color to have equal rights and peace as White people. Today, if there was nobody that had prejudices or encouraged segregation, everyone would live peacefully with no racism and hate towards African Americans or just any race in general.

Someone who is alive today that inspires me to take action towards accomplishing Dr. King's dream is my grandpa, Darryl Mitchell. Around this time when Martin Luther King Jr. was taking action and speaking up on segregation and unfair rights, my grandpa was about fifteen and in highschool. Surprisingly, my grandpa also grew up in Georgia, like Dr. King. My grandpa always tells stories about his experience in Georgia during this time of segregation and discrimination. He participated in some sit-ins with other classmates, and similar to Aynna Najuma, my grandfather and his classmates got yelled at, got spat on by other people, and even got kicked out a couple of times. But even through all this misery other people put them through, they were determined to allow African Americans to sit and order food at this diner. Soon enough they convinced the store owner to allow African Americans to sit and eat at the diner. My grandpa encouraged me to contribute to Dr. King's dream today because he also wanted equal rights for African Americans and for them to live in peace with others. In conclusion, my grandfather's actions in the past helped me understand and contribute to Dr. King's dream in the future. I hope all Americans of all colors and races come together to form a peaceful union.