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A.I Prince Technical High School
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Dr. Martin Luther King JR was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta Georgia and died on April 4, 1968 by an assassination at St. Joseph's Hospital, Memphis. He was married to Coretta Scott King an American author and who also helped with the civil rights movement in the 1960's. She met Dr. Martin Luther King while graduating from Boston. They had 4 kids 2 boys and 2 girls, Martin Luther king III, Bernice King, Yolanda King, and Dexter Scott King. Dr. King had a dream it was for Jobs and Freedom In Washington on August 28, 1963 he had a speech which he called for civil rights and economic rights to end racism in the United States. He made many quotes such as "Darkness cannot drive out Darkness; Only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; Only love can do that" What he means by this is Hate begets Hate which is violence begets violence toughness begets higher toughness darkness to night already devoid of stars.

He had a famous speech named "I have a dream" Which made a difference world wide in the economy Due to the fact that it was talking about racism and is talking about rights. The other Speech he had was "our god is marching on" This meaning is to mark an end of the civil rights movement's first phase focusing on legal and political rights, Later on It focuses on fighting for economic equality. Another is "the other America" Which describes 2 Americas to highlight the growing poverty gap in the United States root of inequality.

He also skipped grades 9 and 12 and entered college at the age of 15 in 1944 at Morehouse college. Also he got imprisoned nearly 30 times for acts of civil disobedience and on trump charges such as getting arrested in Montgomery, Alabama for driving 30 miles per hour instead of 25 mile per hour zone. The most important thing Martin Luther king Jr did was being a civil rights leader and activist who had a great deal that influenced Americans and societies in the 1950's and 1960's. With his strong belief in nonviolence helped set the tone of the movement.

He had help from Rosa Parks Who was tired of being a second class Just because she had to surrender her seat to a white male, She was 42 years old when she met Martin Luther King on December 1st 1955. They worked together in the civil rights movement and the peace movement He also was a Baptist minister at a church and a social activist.

In my own eyes he is a hero in many ways he helped Negroes get their voice and start doing movement through motivation to get the rights they deserved and needed as citizens. With all the hard work it paid off and the motivation started moving forward to stop the segregation and the abuse that they had treated them the way they did, Me In my opinion He is an American hero with all the other heroes for helping people in segregation. Thank you Dr. Martin Luther King we salute you.

Caitlyn Howigan
John F. Kennedy Middle School
Southington, CT

Martin Luther King Junior's dream was to support African Americans rights and to fight, for the same rights as the Caucasian American. Dr. King advocated for the rights of blacks, and spent years of his life speaking up for them. The Emancipation Proclamation banned slavery in the United States, but he was not satisfied, for African Americans were still treated differently and were not held up at the same standards as everyone else. Martin Luther is not remember as just an advocate or just a leader but a hero. Throughout his speeches he opened the eyes of many people and showed them the horrible way African Americans were being treated. Dr. King merely spoke about what he believed in, and in doing so he changed the way our country saw 'difference'.

To America, Martin Luther King Jr. is many things. His speeches and his words spoke deeply to anyone listening. The 'I have a dream' speech, hit the hearts of people listening and in a way helped the way our country viewed African Americans. When I grow up I want to join the United States Marine Corps. My dream is helping America, like it has helped keep me safe for all of these years. Martin Luther's speech addresses the change our country needs to have and the power we have to do so.

When I grow up, I want to be the change that helps our country, like Martin Luther changed America so many years ago. Like Dr. King, I have a dream. My dream is to join the Marine Corp, and fight for what I believe in like him. In doing so, I wish to make a change so drastic it will change America, and in total help America change for the better. Martin Luther King Junior is an inspiration to everyone, and will never be forgotten, because I have a dream.

Cayden Harris
O'Brien STEM Academy
East Hartford, CT

What Martin Luther King Jr. means to me is that he has the same dreams as me because I wanted little boy's and girl's need to meet each other so they can be friends. But when someone shot i was so sad but his dream still was on and on. But what my dreams where to be friends with everyone in my class and to be friends with the people who do not have any friends at all and everyone is mean to a dream that everyone is nice not mean and said things they can not I have a dream that everyone is who they want to be not because someone tells them they have to change who they are just because they are not cool everyone is nice and cool and friends with everyone in their class I have a dream that people can have what they want and take it I have a dream that kids should have and take what they want too just like their mom and dad. I have a dream that you can help people just like other people can help you I have a dream that when someone falls nobody laugh at you and just helps you like a friend and get to know each other I have a dream that ever this is one of his speech:If you can't fly then run. If you can't run,walk. If you can't walk, then crawl, but by all means,keep moving.

Jaelynn Potter
New London High School
New London, CT

Dreaming isn't something we do anymore, or at least most of us don't. We choose to sit back and let the world change itself slowly overtime instead of getting up to help progress for the present. Today we don't have many people willing to stand up for what's right no matter the consequence, so I try to do the right things and stand up for those with no voice because I feel as if it's my duty to continue the message that was misguided so many years ago.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was one of plentiful messengers who taught the word of equality, and to fight with love, not hate. He spent his life living by the code of pacifism, and the word of God, through that he was a true leader, one who we should learn from to create unity within us. Without the words preached by Dr. King our dreams would be virtually unobtainable, we would've continued battling amongst ourselves and achieving nothing but more hatred and disdain towards one another and with that our dreams will fall into the void. Hopes and dreams don't come free nor' should they if it was easy to get what you wanted not only would the world be boring but it would be filled with those who know, no challenge or hardship, those who won't know the patience it takes or the battles to be won or loss just to get to a glimpse of what their dream can become, Dr. King's battles are the embodiment of our future, he's paved the way for our success.

My perception of Dr. King's dream is the fight for fairness and equality through a suffering nation, the purification of people's hearts and minds through love and peace opposed to violence and force allowing harmony throughout all cultures, religions, genders because to him everyone no matter appearance, faith, or gender we are unequivocally equal. To limit Dr. King to the definitions of courageous, assertive, and tenacious does not do him proper justice, for he stood for a plethora of things and all types of people. This is what I choose to stand for; the courage and patience it takes to accomplish my aspirations fuel me, I choose to work hard now so the future is tranquil for not only myself but the people around me. The road to success is a long one and my dreams to become a medical doctor is gonna make it even longer but I feel that if I follow the word of love, hard work, and perseverance the road will become smooth. The perseverance through hard times and tough nights will make my success as a doctor, and a young African American woman that much more important. Because if I've learned anything from Dr. King it's that it's a tough world but I'm ready to take it on and help the world evolve not repeat to reach a state of splendor.

Mannat Kadian
East Lyme Middle School
Niantic, CT

An influential man who changed America is remembered every year on January 21st. He was a true leader who defied expectations with his desire for equality. Martin Luther King Jr. peacefully protested and advocated for equal rights. His dream resonates in society, leaving a mark that will not only impact my actions but also everyone across our nation.

"I have a 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" is an excerpt from one of MLK's speech that impacts me. MLK is not just talking about his children but also everyone in the nation; we should not be judged on our skin colors. Sadly, sometimes in the 21st century, we let this message fade—we forget the importance of equality and let stereotypes take over.

I have a dream that we can become a unified nation and world. The American dream is to be free, but being free also entails unity. As a nation, we need to realize that stereotypes and judgment present in our day-to-day lives do not make us a better society. I will do everything possible to unify our nation by forgetting the differences in our skin color and putting on a smile as I look at everyone. We are all equal and should be defined by who we are, not what we are.

Every year when we get a day off to remember a true leader in society, we should be thankful for MLK's strong message that still touches the heart of every American. We all have our differences, but Dr. King taught everyone that we are one inside a nation that is thriving because of his visionary beliefs.

I have a dream...



pray

be kind

love

+ treat each other equal

Olivia Diaz
Grade 1



Lily DesJardins
Vinal Technical High School
Middletown, CT

Everyone has dreams, hopes, and expectations for the future. Some people, like Dr. King, have famous dreams. He dreamt about his children's future and the future the entire country. He was hoping for a better, bright future. He hoped for freedom, emotionally and mentally, not just in writing somewhere in the government records. African Americans may have earned the right to be humans, but they never really get freed from the mental prison they were forced into. By forcing African Americans to use different bathrooms, schools, water fountains from White Men, we forcing them to believe they were lesser people. And that is why MLK had a dream. He dreamt to fix that. He wanted a better home for his children, and his children's children. He wanted to let them all feel safe in the country which they would call home.

I think that today MLK will be disappointed in how things have progressed. Yes, segregation ended for the most part, but there is still police brutality, and when he was growing up the 'N' word was a bad name to be called, yet kids today use it as a term of endearment. I also think that not only would he be disappointed about how things have progressed for African Americans, but he would be disappointed about all the putting down of anyone. His goal, dream, was to have peace and happiness among all men. At the time he was referring to the fact that we were being separated by color of our skin, but the idea at the time about LGBTQ+ and other minorities had not come up. So I believe he would be disappointed about how the work he put into this country has progressed.

I dream too. I dream about righteousness for all. I hope to fix everything, event though that may not be a goal within reach for me. I can do what I can to make things right on small scales. I want people to be educated. So many Americans are uneducated about things such as LGBTQ+ problems, or women's rights, or small things in little states. People are uneducated about poverty or how they can make a change. So many people offer up charity around the holidays, but what about the rest of the year? People still need help the rest of the time. It is hard for people to recognize when someone is in trouble or when someone is seeking help. I just wish I could help people see that they can make a difference. If people knew the difference they could make, then maybe, just maybe, the entire ideal of people might change, making life better for even a small amount of people. So many people are more worried about technology or social media, yet others cannot even afford technology, because whatever money they can scrape up goes to food or clothes in order to stay warm during winter.

Fatoumata Sow
Wexler Grant School
New Haven, CT

What did Martin Luther King want then, and what would he want now?
If he were still alive what would he fight for?

All of these are good questions to ask. We all will wonder if he would keep fighting or if he would give up. We will keep asking these questions and so will the next generation that comes after us. Martin Luther King Jr. was a hardworking man. He worked hard to end racism between whites and blacks. He worked extra hard for us to be able to have the same education as white people did. He also worked hard to have us use the same tools as white people.

Back then in the olden days, everything was "segregated" and the whites had their own schools and water fountains. Did you know it was also legal to make African Americans use different washrooms? If you were a black person caught using a water fountain labeled "White" you were whipped badly, whether it was a mistake or not. Blacks were also not allowed to talk to white people because then the black people were punished.

Way back before everyone new about Martin, African Americans were treated so badly all because of their skin color. They were arrested for no reason. They were beaten for no reason. They were burned, spit on, had water sprayed on them, taken out of their homes for no reason. The key words here are NO REASON. They had no rights, and that was what he was fighting for. He was fighting for not only African Americans, but for a better world.

My dream is just like his. I want to end racism. Even to this day, people are still racist. There was this video where this guy was arrested and choked for no reason, and this happened recently. He was holding a phone, which the police claimed was a "gun" and they were "terrified" of what would happen next. They choked him, but he wasn't resisting. He was fully cooperating. He said, "I'm not resisting," yet they still choked him until he passed out. After the date found out what really happened, they offered him a deal not to release the video, but he did to show the world what happened to him.

Martin Luther King Jr. was born January 15, 1929 and he fought until he died fighting in April 1968. He died fighting and if he was alive, he would still be fighting because he cared about our community. His name is Martin Luther King and this is what he fought for.

Kathryn Suarez
Spring Glen School
Hamden , CT

I know that Dr. King's dream was to make segregation illegal. He believed that everyone should have equal rights no matter what you look like. He did all of this for us; even though he knew it was dangerous and people who did not agree with his ideas were trying to kill him. Dr. King is important to me because my parents would not have been allowed to get married, and I would not be alive if he didn't have his dream.

I try to be like Dr. King by standing up for my brother and others like him that have learning or health problems. Someday, I hope to be a teacher or a doctor and help people achieve their dreams. First, I will need to get an education to do these jobs, so I want to go to an Ivy league College. Dr. King's work makes all my dreams possible. That is why I am grateful for Dr. King.

Natalie Ochoa
Brien McMahon High School
Norwalk, CT

Locked inside a Birmingham jail cell in 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. wrote, "We must all maintain faith in the future, and believe that the American dream can and will become a reality." That American dream for him, was that his four little black children could "live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character." This dream was that of the millions of black Americans that had to live in segregation and brutal oppression. But how could they keep their faith in one of the darkest times in American history? Policemen were beating young, black brothers and sisters on the streets, countless of arrests were made, and innocent lives were taken. Though, in the midst of these tragedies, they found their answer to be love. It was love that made the non-violent protesters sit in the lunch counters, bus seats, or anywhere that marked "whites only." It was also love that empowered blacks and whites to march together in Washington, to hear King proclaim his great dream.

To be frank, King would be concerned at the state of our current administration. He would condemn the hate our President has encouraged and brought out from all parts of this country. Yet, the people that have grown to resist this evil are the true representatives of love. I am proud to live in a time that the people that represent me in Congress look more and more like America with every upcoming election. I am grateful to learn in such a diverse school community, where anyone has the chance at a fair education. Because of the struggles of the civil rights movement, thousands of people from different backgrounds are able to join together to fight for what they are passionate about. Today, there is the annual Women's March where Americans push back on the sexism, homophobia, and prejudice that has formed from bitter hatred. Not to forget this year's March for Our Lives, where students met and pushed for gun-control measures, an issue that remains unresolved.

As a result of these defeats, it is easy to be angry. It is easy to unite with the hatred for a common enemy, but as King said, "Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." My dream is that during these times of political division, my fellow citizens can transform their anger into a strong love for each other. We have already come so far to achieve King's dream, and I have hope that people can be courageous and work together for justice for all.

Angelina Ennis-Mitchell
Winthrop Middle School
Deep River, CT

Do you think that it is fair to those who are being judged because of the color of their skin, race, or religion? Today I will be talking about racism and how it isn't fair to those people. Martin Luther King Jr once stated that his children should not be judged by the color of their skin, but by their actions.

I am a black and Hispanic young lady and I have been judged my whole childhood by kids I know and spent time with in school. I have been judged on how I eat, look, dress, act, talk, and a lot of other things. I try to make friends but they all tell me that they don't want to be friends with me because I am black and Hispanic.

Racism affects African Americans in numerous amounts of numbers. According to dosomething.org did you know that in 2009, African Americans are 21% more likely than whites to receive mandatory minimum sentences. Also, in New York 50% of the people police stopped were blacks and Hispanics. And in 2010 judges gave blacks and Hispanics a 10% longer sentences than whites.

The issue in today's generation is that people are too quick to judge people then to just get to know them. Another issue isn't that people in today's world are racist to other people. I will do all I can to try to stop this issue and those actions are I would speak up to the government by writing letters and march around my neighborhood and it will be all about racism and I would state why and how it is wrong. And if we were in school I would make signs and get a group and march all around the school. I would then next if that doesn't work I would tell everyone that is dealing with being judged to just be their selves and to believe that change is possible just like Martin Luther King Jr. said that they're needs to be change, the kind of change that doesn't involve violence but that involves our voice. Back in the days there started to be changes during to boycott all because of Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr wished that no one is to be judged by the color of their skin, but only be judged by their actions. I am trying to follow in Martin Luther King Jr footsteps to stop this issue. I am using my voice to help make the problem better. Martin Luther King Jr did a lot for our nation, and I am willing to do more about this issue and I will make sure that this issue is stopped once and for all.

Dr. Martin Luther King essay

By: Bodhen Rajkarnikar

Dr. Martin Luther King was an activist and a social worker. Dr. Martin Luther King fought for freedom and equality for all people. He said a speech called "I have a dream." In 1963 Dr. Martin-

Luther King said his speech in Washington USA.

His dream was about America becoming a good nation where all men are created equal.

He had a difficult dream but it was still an American dream. But there are still dark people out there that are mistreated in the world. I think white people can get along with dark people.

NO MATTER WHAT THE COLOR OF
OUR SKIN IS WE ARE ALL HUMAN!!

My parents are nepalese american. I am a light brown
person I want to be treated equally.

I want to be an astronast when I grow-up.

Dr. Martin Luther King jr. was killed in

April 4th 1968. But his dream and our hopes are
still alive

Rebecca Wozniak
O.H. Platt High School
Meriden, CT

What advice would Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. give to students in our school today?

It has been just 55 years since Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and delivered one of the most significant and well-known speeches in history. He stood in front of a crowd of 250,000 people who were hopeful for change and could see that Dr. King was the man who would make it happen. A civil rights leader and Baptist minister, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. fought the injustices of discrimination and segregation and paved a more bright future for African-Americans up until his assassination in 1968. The world has changed a great deal since then, but his message to the youth of America hasn't. If he were alive today, he would remind us to not hate because we are different, to never respond to violence with violence, and to never stay quiet when we see injustices occurring.

It is a common perception among Americans that discrimination ended after the 1960's. Unfortunately, this is not true. Discrimination, although more veiled, still exists today. Our political culture has divided us and our leaders have convinced us that our differences make us too different. Today our schools aren't segregated, but our own institutions still suffer from the effects of systemic racism. Then it was lynching, today it's police brutality. It's the same thing just a different name. It isn't a coincidence that black people are more likely to be killed than white people by the police. Dr. King said it best, "We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now." All of us come from different backgrounds, ethnicities, religions, financial standings, but we all must be tolerant of our differences and work together to achieve a common goal: equity and equality. We can't let our differences divide us or we will only fail ourselves.

Dr. King once said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter," and it is just as relevant now as it was then. Injustices happen all of the time and we must dare to be the one who stands up and says, "this is not right" - even if we stand alone. It takes courage to stand against the current, but it is those who do that change history. If Rosa Parks hadn't refused to get up from her seat that day, would the world be the same? If Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had stopped fighting for equality after his house was bombed in 1956, would the world be the same? We can't know for sure, but we do know that their contributions were instrumental in forming a more accepting society. When injustices are not challenged, they will run rampant. They must be challenged for the common good because "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Non-violent protest is what made Dr. King's message resonate with so many Americans. He showed us that an "eye for an eye" only makes us all blind. Nonviolence is more powerful than violence, it seems contradictory, but it's true. You cannot stoop as low as violence because the people you face are not your enemy. They are the people you most show the most love to, they are the people who you strive to change because they are the people who need it the most. Responding with violence in any aspect of one's life is never the right choice, it only further escalates the situation. As Dr. King said, "Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that." You can't drive hate out of people's hearts with hatred, only with love.

In closing, Dr. King's message is applicable to any time. He preached a universal message of nonviolence, love, and personal courage in the face of immorality. His words were powerful, but they alone could not change society. It is the people who were inspired by those words and stood up and fought for what was right that changed history. We are all possible of fostering change, we just have to have the courage to believe we can.

Ryan Caselli
Henry James Memorial School
Simsbury, CT

Martin Luther King was a social rights activist that fought peacefully for equality during the 1950s and 60s. He made several famous speeches, marches, and boycotts that fought for equal rights for African-Americans, Muslims, and many other people groups. Speeches including, "I've Been to the Mountaintop" and "I Have a Dream" were mostly focused on peace, unity, and equal rights for all. In his speech: "I've Been to the Mountaintop" he talked about unity and that we need to use events and mistakes in history to guide us. Martin Luther King never protested with violence because he wanted to spread peace and it better to spread peace without violence.

Mr. King dream has inspired people everywhere to take action. If he could see the world today we've made he would be jubilant, surprised, and disappointed. With the creation of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, both meant to create unity and peace, we have made progress. Also, people of all races are sitting in the same restaurants, going to the same schools, and staying in the same hotels, which was what he wanted all along. However, police confrontation and other forms of racism and bigotry are hurting our country. In addition, there is economic inequality and poverty are hurting the negro population. Everything that Martin Luther King has done has reflected my own hopes for the world.

One of my favorite quotes from him is: "Only when it's dark out you can see the stars." That means that even in the darkest of times, hope is always visible. Martin Luther King did many things that no one wanted to do. For example, he stood up in front of thousands of people to give his speeches and his outlook on life. Also, he volunteered to go to jail so eventually the jails would become overcrowded. Finally, when I grow up I want to do things no one else will do and stand up to what I think is right.

Aliya Parker Viera
Northend School
New Britain, CT

I learned that Dr. Martin Luther King had a dream to prove a point and show that black African American need to stand up and speak. He also wanted every culture every color to stand up and speak. He knew that we all have a say and that we all need to be respected for the inside and the out cause we all are humans and we should be treated the same way.

Dr. Martin Luther King's dream means a lot to me it means to fight for your rights just because you don't look the same doesn't mean not to respect them, but we came to the world and we're here to stay. In 1929-1968 he used this phrase "Hate begets hate; violence begets violence; toughness begets greater toughness; we must meet the forces of hate with power of love our aim must never be to defeat or humiliate the white man, but to win his friendship and his understanding." To me that's showing that there's no need to fight to show a right.

In 2019 the new year in the United States with all of the racism has gone down from the beginning but its still happening. I know that this year is a brand new slate we can stop it maybe not one person can do it but it sure can make a difference. In this world people are still getting hurt or harmed but maybe one day we all can work together and forget our differences treat people with respect and still be friendly.

My dream is to succeed, to have freedom to stay me and make sure no words no pictures no people can be me or change me to express who I am and like what I see inside and out. All I want to do is be proud of who I am and who I may become. Dr. Martin Luther King speech inspired me to have a say just like he did and stand up the right way without violence.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr was important to the United States without him we probably will still have this problem but till this day we are free! This is why I think Dr. Martin Luther King made a difference to the United States.