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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.