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Martin Luther King Jr., a name that changed the course of American history. When asked to picture King's influence on American history, we will often center our thoughts around his "I Have a Dream" speech. However, his legacy extends far beyond that single address. Personally, his advocacy for service has always resonated with me deeply. Specifically, his challenge for those across the nation, "Life's most persistent and urgent question, 'What are you doing for others?'" perfectly encapsulates the strength and encouragement that inspires me daily. It prompts me, as well as others, to constantly think about how I can serve to better the experience of not only myself but the people surrounding me.

Being one of the most selfless public figures, King continually worked for the greater good and dedicated his own life to improving the lives of others. He not only fought against racial prejudice and discrimination, but he also emphasized the idea of uplifting everyone involved in the process of doing so. He believed in the idea of unity, a concept where humans would be able to collaborate for the benefit of all. He clearly displayed these values through his accomplishments such as leading the Montgomery bus boycott, March on Washington, and founding the SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference). All of these were nonviolent acts that impacted the lives of others notably more than they impacted his. This demonstrates to me and hopefully, youth around the nation that they are able to achieve as highly as Martin Luther King Jr. did through selfless and peaceful efforts.

To be truthful, at first, I was unsure what to write about as I was not as familiar with King's work as much as I wished to be or as many other individuals might be. However, after days of reflecting and contemplating on what I should write about, I soon learned that I did not have to do a deep dive or take detailed and comprehensive notes on Martin Luther King Jr. I solely had to look at the impact he had on others around me, whether they were slight or powerful. So, I looked first to my parents, my biggest heroes in life. My parents have always exemplified the value of service. One of my dads, who works in education, views teaching not simply as a profession but as a way to empower others. He provides opportunities for those who may otherwise have been overlooked and neglected. My other dad, a pharmacist, comes home late at night always telling me about the new patients he interacted with. Despite the fact that, sometimes there are complaints, I am always truly inspired by the amount of people he is able to help within the span of a day. Although Martin Luther King Jr. may not have been one of their main inspirational figures growing up, they do share the same values which therefore further compels me to look up to MLK Jr. as a role model. In conclusion, Martin Luther King Jr.'s value of service serves as a guiding light for my

aspirations in a line of work that benefits others, deeply connected to the principles instilled in me by my parents.