



2018 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art, Essay, & Multimedia Contest

Change starts by changing yourself. It can be a large change that impacts many or a small change that changes just a few. Change is spurred by someone's will to say something is wrong and want to amend that wrong. Change can be for many different causes. Change can also come in many different forms. A common detail that is seen at the beginning of change is change of yourself. How can someone bring change to another if they're not willing to change themselves? I want to change myself by becoming more aware of myself, other people, and problems in the world.

I went to see a Broadway musical over the summer of 2017. The musical was Kinky Boots. Throughout the plot, it spoke a lot about understanding different people and accepting them for who they are. It showed me how important it is to be understanding. Just because a person is different doesn't mean that they are bad. In their songs and the plot, they have very important messages for people to take with them. In the song, Raise You Up/ Just Be, they have six lessons/steps for people. "One, pursue the truth (come one, come on). Two, learn something new. Three, accept yourself and you'll accept others too! Four. Let love shine. Five, let pride be your guide. Six, you change the world when you change your mind!" I keep these steps with me in my mind every day. They are so important and can help be change into a better person.

I know that I'm not perfect. There are things in my life that I could change to better myself, others and the environment. I want to understand the flaws I have and try to fix them. For example, I'm very passionate about protecting the environment. I would love to look at the things that I could change in my everyday routine that would help the planet. Whether it would be watching the amount of water I use or to start recycling more. I know that making these small changes will have a positive effect. I could also start to watch what brands I'm buying things from. If I buy things from places that try to harm the environment, in a way it can have an effect. It can have an even larger effect if I talk to others about ways to help the environment. It would all start with be changing a few things

Another things that I can change about myself is my knowledge. I need to be more informed about other people and cultures around the world. When a person becomes more informed about others around the world, they can be more understanding and accepting. By understanding fully how lucky I am in my situation, I can stop complaining about my life and start helping others. It can also help them become a better person by reflecting on their own decisions. People who grow up in certain places have a pretty good environment tend to be trapped in a bubble. They don't always realize the actual problems that hurt the world. That is why it is important to always seek new information. There could be a famine in another country you haven't even heard of. If you know about the problems in the world, you can then try to do something to help. I want learn more and help more. Closing myself off will only make the world a worse place. I want to understand. I want to help. Maybe I won't be able to make a huge difference, but my small difference could mean a lot to someone. If becoming more aware and willing to help leads to someone being at least a little better off, then it will all be worth it.

Lastly, I want to pursue the truth. There are always multiple sides to a story. I might not agree with one side, but it is still important for me to be aware of it. Lots of argument in the world focus just on their side. They don't even try to see what the other side is presenting. While the other side could be saying horrible things, listening to them could even help you strengthen your case. Some arguments might even have an easy solution if people listen to both sides and try to come to a compromise. I want to be able to listen. Even if I don't like what the other person is saying, we'll never be able to resolve the conflict if we don't listen to one another. This can be on a larger political scale or even a small scale with just yourself and another person.

I understand that there are many things in the world that need change to occur. I want to help with that change. I also understand that this change can start with myself. I want to be more aware, understanding, educated, and helpful. I want to make sure that my change can help the world be a better.

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Be the Change

