



2019 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art, Essay, & Multimedia Contest

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - son of a Baptist minister, Atlanta native, and best known for his part in advancing the civil rights movement. A man who was imprisoned over 30 times for just simply standing up for not only his, but so many others' rights. He was an activist, a leader, and a hero. This is someone I aspire to be like throughout the course of my life. Although King accomplished so much, there is still a lot of progress that needs to be made. I believe that the children of my generation can follow in his footsteps and help to accomplish his ultimate dream.

Some people may feel that just because I am a healthy, young, white female growing up in a rural/suburban area and attend a predominately white school that I have no reason to be concerned over racial relations or other civil rights issues. However, I feel that is the precise reason why I should take action. It's possible that I could have a greater ability to influence others like me to join me in being more tolerant and accepting of others who feel left out or treated unfairly. In addition, I realize that my life is enhanced in so many ways by the relationships I have with my African-American friends. Thinking about what my life would be like without them truly saddens me. This is another incentive for me to make people aware of the value of all human beings, particularly those who are different from us. When you think about it, our world would be empty without the accomplishments of so many African-Americans who have contributed to the improvement of the world. For example, we would not have many of our favorite songs, movies, television shows, sports teams or scientific advancements without those of color.

Unlike King, as a twelve-year-old girl, I don't have access to certain things like money, transportation, or the ability to talk in front of large crowds of people across the world. Nevertheless, I can make a difference in my school by continuing to introduce my white friends to my black friends and inviting them to social events or to sit at our lunch table all together. As a student council officer, I can promote activities that encourage acceptance and give students an opportunity to learn more about each other and come to the conclusion that most of the time we have more similarities with a person than differences. These acts may have a trickle effect and reach far beyond the walls of my school.

If everyone were to take small steps like these, the world would greatly benefit because there would be less fear, hate, and violence and more love, respect, and unity. I will take it upon myself to fulfill the promises that I have made in this essay and contribute to the fulfillment of Dr. Martin Luther King's admirable dream.

Christina Badurik
7th Grade Essay Winner
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Tracy Hoover, Teacher
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The Journey is Not Complete

