



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

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was an American Civil Rights activist who changed the lives of many. He dreamed of a better world, where equality was prominent in our society. Some of his dreams have not come true. We still live in a world where racism and discrimination poison the lives of many. While our world has improved, there are always ways we can continue the fight for social justice. No matter how small, our actions can change the world. There are many things I can do to achieve the dreams of Dr. King. Even though I am a child, I have power in my voice and my actions to make an impact.

To really make an impact, we must speak out against racism and injustice. Dr. King dreamed of an end to social injustice. Before we can achieve that around us, we must first make sure there is no prejudice in our own minds. I will refrain from using hurtful language or racial slurs, which are a common form of discrimination. I will inform others of what is happening and encourage them to stand up for those who are the victims of this verbal abuse. We must make the situation known. Words are powerful and are often a direct and harmful form of discrimination. A harmful exchange can change someone's life. I will not be the one who uses my words to harm. I will use my words to inform and educate.

To stop racism and discrimination, we must take action. In many cases, people say that they will speak up, but when they are actually put into the situation, they only watch and let it happen. I must not be a bystander. If asked, many people would say that they have seen an act of discrimination in their life. They might have experienced it themselves, had it happen to a friend, or even just seen a stranger be the victim. We cannot let these small acts go unnoticed. To help in a situation where discrimination is present, I could defend the victim, or help him or her leave the situation. This gives comfort to the victim, and lets the attacker know that it is not acceptable. Discrimination of any kind will never be tolerated. It cannot be stopped unless everyone makes an effort in their own lives to end discrimination. I will use the power of my words to protect those who feel powerless, who feel they have no voice. I will be their voice.

Another way I could help achieve Dr. King's dream would be to donate my time or money. Many charities and foundations exist that work to help stop many problems in our society. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. hoped that one day people would not go hungry, or be without a home to live in. Many charities, such as Harvest For Hunger, Feeding America, and Action Against Hunger make an effort in America, and around the world, to end hunger. Also, most cities have food banks, and always appreciate donations. Volunteering at a soup kitchen would allow me to directly help those in my community. To help those living in extreme poverty, I could sponsor someone in an extremely poor country. Additionally, I could give to charities such as Give Directly, which allow me to give money that goes directly to someone in need. I could even talk to local government representatives and officials about raising money for those struggling in my community. If we all do something small, we can make a difference. I will use the power of my actions and my time to change the world. Even a small amount of my time can help.

These are just a few things that I can do to make a change in our world. There are many ways to help those in need and to better our world. Some things are big, some things are small. Every action makes a difference. If everyone did one of these things at some point in their lifetime, the world would be a much better place. We would be closer to the world Dr. King hoped one day we would achieve. No more would people be told that who they are is wrong, that they are less than someone else. No more would people spend their nights on the streets, hungry and homeless. No more would people stand by and watch as someone was humiliated and discriminated against. It would be peaceful, as it should be. All of our actions can make a difference. We will never achieve the dream of Dr. King until we all put in an effort to change this world for the better. There is power in my voice, words, and actions. There is power in me and every other person around me. How that power is used will determine the future of our world.

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The Journey is Not Complete

