



# 2015 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art, Writing & Multimedia Contest

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## A Child's Rights Movement

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. fought for equality for all, but I do not believe that his dream is a reality, and bullying is the main reason. People are being bullied and hurt all over the world just because they are different from others. Differences should not make us less important or less equal than others; in fact I feel it makes us better. Our differences are not something we should hide; they are something we should embrace. Whether people are bullied about their weight, heights, beliefs, thoughts, or even their dreams, it is not acceptable at all. We should all be treated the same, not judged by our features or the size of our clothes, but by the size of our hearts. The people that bully others just because they're different have their differences too. One of the only reasons people bully others is to hide their insecurities. Resorting to putting down someone else for what you don't want to face is not the answer. My dream in this world is for everyone to be accepted for who they are and to not be bullied.

The Civil Rights Movement has ended, but I think it might be time for a Children's Rights Movement. Children are being bullied all over the world for simply being themselves and in my opinion that's not acceptable. All people should be treated equally no matter what. Sadly, according to [bullyingstatistics.org](http://bullyingstatistics.org), in the United State about 77 percent of children are bullied verbally or mentally in school and about one in four kids are bullied on a regular basis. When I saw this statistic, it made me extremely sad to think that kids just like me are going through this all over the United States. I know it's hard to stand up to a bully, especially if the bully is one of my friends but I know it will pay off in the end. They may call me a "tattle tale" or "blabbermouth" for getting help, but I'm doing what is necessary to make everyone feel respected and safe.

I feel people need to hear what is happening in this nation and to realize that bullying is unacceptable, no matter if it's verbal, physical, or cyber bullying. I feel we should all take a stand and show people that bullying is wrong. Changing the whole world seems wonderful, but it is rather farfetched to do so. "You can't change the world unless you change yourself." How can you change yourself? You can change yourself by complimenting someone's outfit, hanging out with someone new at school, sharing a seat on the bus with someone new, or you can change the way you think about what you say and can change a person's day for the better. Sometimes the small things you do can mean a thousand times more than the larger ones. "Good things come in small packages," Right?

Changing the world starts with changing yourself, but how can we get the word out? I am going to try and raise awareness by making signs and posters to send a helpful reminder to everyone in my school and community to be friendly and caring to one another. I am also going to do my best to promote that bullying is not acceptable by spreading peace and making sure everyone is happy and cheerful. By including everyone and doing my very best to help those being bullied, I am doing a great deal to help my community. I am helping out my community a little at a time by not bullying. I want people to know that they shouldn't be afraid to be who they are and to not be afraid to stand up.

I feel we should all be fearless and be able to stand up for what we believe, like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and all of the extremely brave African Americans that risked their lives to follow their dreams had done. We should be able to be ourselves, because if we weren't ourselves, life would be pretty boring. We would all be the same if we weren't ourselves. My dream in this world is for everyone to be accepted for who they are, no matter their size, personality or dreams. "Be yourself, because everyone else is already taken." – Oscar Wilde

*"I Have A Dream"*

