

**Alex Guzhnay**  
**Achievement First Amistad High School**

When Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "I Have A Dream" speech on August 28th, 1963 in Washington, DC, Dr. King created a pivotal moment in the lives of not only African-Americans but of all those that call America home. This speech spurred efforts to create a much-needed change in our country after decades and decades of the denial of civil rights to citizens that our country had maintained for so long. In Dr. King's speech, he emphasizes the idea of unity amongst every single American regardless of race, and we are part of a singular brotherhood that makes up this country; Americans that share equal rights. Dr. King's dream of unity wasn't limited to only race, but to every single aspect of American society and life.

By eventually passing the Voting Rights Act and other civil rights legislation, that dream of unity started making its way to becoming a reality. However, part of Mr. King's speech reads out this, "...we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters..." The truth in this line is that the fight for progress and of civil right requires almost endless activism and that this battle will never end until every American, regardless of race, would be able to enjoy the rights of being a citizen of our country. In today's time and age, the struggle continues. We continue to see how our American brothers and sisters are disenfranchised and rendered unable to vote only because of the color of their skin.

We also see how our supposedly "just" legal system hurts and divides families across the country because of the color of their skin. When we talk about unity, Americans see it as something hard to come across. We are not excused from the fact that at every step of the way, we must remember the idea of unity. In today's age of divisiveness and partisanship, there must be that middle way for all Americans to be able to unite and procure the best results for every single person. America shouldn't let differences divide us, but rather unite us.

With regards to my own dream, there are similarities to what MLK Jr.'s dream entails. I dream that one day I will be able to honor the sacrifices that people, like my two formerly immigrant illegal parents and Martin Luther King chose to commit to doing. My parents sacrificed their own lives that they had in Ecuador in exchange for a better life for my siblings and me, and I dream that one day I'll be able to begin to attempt to somehow repay them back. Dr. King sacrificed his life to the bettering of others, and I dream that one day I am in the position to continue to aid those efforts. I dream that one day we can truly unite as a people under a banner of love and freedom.