

Name: Meranyelis Negron Figueroa
Grade: 11
School: A.I. Prince Technical HS
1st Congressional District

Martin Luther King Junior is a historical icon with deep roots in social justice and civil rights. His life and words have empowered generations of Americans to fight for equality. In the mid-1950s, Dr. King led the movement to end segregation and counter prejudice in the United States through the means of peaceful protest. His speeches had a profound effect on all Americans' consciousness. His most popular speech and the one most reflect upon is his "I Have a Dream" speech, which reflects upon the long history of racial injustices in America. The well-known speech encouraged its audience to hold their country accountable to its founding promises of freedom, justice, and equality. Said promises were broken as the people of color were oppressed, constantly facing injustices and harsh treatment.

During his speech Dr. King establishes his dream, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character". Meaning he wished for further generations to not face the constant judgment he had no choice but to endure, judgment based on no other than the color of his skin.

The reason Dr. King's speech is dear to my heart is that thanks to him I cannot just happily declare I have dreams, but most importantly I can chase them and act upon them. Such as the dream of studying laws and politics to continue fighting the injustices of an unfair and oppressive system. Or my dream of starting a foundation focused on people of color and their education, as unfortunately many times we fear dreaming too big, stopping many of us from attending colleges and/or universities. Yes, it is still difficult to accomplish such dreams without facing any form of discrimination. Nevertheless, "I Have a Dream" is a speech that helps me continue persevering and fighting to accomplish all my dreams and goals, after all, I wouldn't want Dr. King's hard work to go to waste. No one said it would be easy, not even Martin Luther King Jr. himself, in spite of that I have a dream, a dream that my generation and I will continue towards a change and a better future for our children and the many other generations to come. A future where absolutely no one, no matter their skin color or their language will fear dreaming. As dreams are what make us better people.