



2016 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art, Writing, & Multimedia Contest

Matthew Egbert
10th Grade Writing Winner
Archbishop Alter High School, Kettering
Bonnie Walter, Teacher
Lourdes Lambert, Principal

We Are All Humans

Martin Luther King Jr. was an extremely important figure in American History, and he truly encompassed the ideal of the American Way. He showed us that if you have a dream, it's your right and duty to act on it and to never let anyone slow you down. Dr. King also realized how important it is to lead by example. He was a very peaceful man and never promoted hurting anyone. However, he was still able to get his message of equality across very efficiently. Dr. King was very wise because he understood that power doesn't have to proceed from the barrel of a gun, but rather from the validity and conviction of your words. With this basis in mind he was able to single handedly open the eyes of the political leaders of the United States, as well as to rally together countless people to stand up for the cause of equality.

"Money makes the world go 'round," now more than ever. However, in a supposedly equal country African Americans still make on average less than Asians, Whites and Hispanics according to the Business Insider. There are many vehicles business owners use to facilitate this pay gap, but in my opinion, there is one that can easily be fixed. Has anyone ever asked you what your salary is? Social convention would say that this question is rude or impolite, but I pose the question, "Why?" When you don't express how much you make in the work place then that is just facilitating business owners to pay you whatever they want. Think about it, you could be getting paid less for the same job just because of your race or gender in a country that is supposed to have equal opportunity for all. In order to counteract this, I would start a campaign to inform people in my city to share with their co-workers what they earn. This closes the loop hole utilized by business owners which facilitates paying certain people less just because they can get away with it. Ignore the "stigma" of sharing your salaries with your co-workers because I believe that idea was planted in your head with foul intentions!

Kindness can go a long way. Have you ever been having a bad day that turns around when someone does something as simple as holding a door open for you? People don't realize how much a random act of kindness can mean to others. This is why I say that it's important to always be kind and to make a conscious effort to help people, because life is far too short for hate. As Martin Luther King once said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." This quote truly moves me because it is so elegantly true; the only way to make the world better is without a doubt through love and kindness equals love. In my community, I always remember this powerful quote and try to lead by example as Dr. King did, by those random acts of kindness that are so simple to do if you just put it foremost in your mind.

At my high school, the football team is pretty much the most diverse group in the school. I believe the best way to make the school free of prejudices is to employ the same dogmas of the football team to the school. To explain, in the football team there may be horse play, however, above all there is brotherhood and comradery. As a byproduct of this brotherhood there is a mutual respect between players that cannot and will not be shaken without a substantial cause. Similarly, if people simply respected each other, regardless of personal prejudices, then the school would become a much better place. Despite what you may think, I am not asking that everyone should blindly love everyone else; I'm simply asking that people respect each other unless they are given a specific reason not to. To that point, if someone betrays our trust and respect then we must exercise compassion and forgiveness. Correspondingly, on the football team if someone makes a bad play or does something wrong there is always another play and another chance for forgiveness and redemption. Dr. King said, "Forgiveness is not an occasional act it is a constant attitude." The way I see it, if we forgive everyone sincerely then we will have no enemies in life! So, to sum it up if everyone in my school, in my community, and in the world would follow these golden rules and ideologies then happiness and peace with equality for all will be able to thrive. This would be the greatest tribute to Dr. King's memory that could ever be achieved!

Beloved Community

