



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

A Muslim woman is cursed at while walking on the street because of what she wears on her head. A girl comes home from college to visit her parents and introduces them to her new boyfriend who happens to be African American. They do not give him a warm welcome. A transgender girl enters the women's restroom and receives many dirty looks. A homeless man sits at the corner of the street and as you pull up to the light, you try your hardest to not make eye contact. Almost all of us have done something insulting like this, but how many of us will admit it?

The issue of inequality and injustice must be recognized as people are affected by the ongoing struggle of it every day. I believe that each of us can carry out Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy by acting upon what he preached about justice. My community and city are full of varying people. I believe that having diversity around is vital. Learning about and respecting someone's background is important to me. I always make sure to not judge a person because they are different than me. Differences are what make us unique and no one should ever feel bad about what makes them stand out in a crowd. Sometimes when a person is torn down or shown disrespect regarding themselves, they tend to keep it inside and let the words of negativity eat away at them. I am a firm believer in speaking up for someone in a situation where they need it. If I am around someone that is being made fun of because of their race, social status etc., I would speak up for them. I try my hardest to be the person that stops the negative words before they reach someone. Dr. King used his voice to address issues. If all of us try our best to treat each other with respect, kindness, and understanding, we all might feel a little more valued in our own skin.

My generation can be the one to put an end to inequality and injustice. We can be the ones to finally end the tension that separates us from one another. The achievement of this goal can be started by acting. As a part of this generation of change, there are many things that I can do to make a difference. Since there are many racial/religion related conflicts happening in today's world, being educated on these issues can help me better understand how the problem may be affecting that group of people and what reasons led to the issue. I should try to be updated on these current problems so that I can be aware as to what these people are going through and possibly be on the lookout for ways to help. Another possible way that I can help to live out the message of Dr. King's life is by being on the lookout for discrimination on social media. It is easier to say something hurtful online rather than face to face. This makes social media an easy place for putting someone down for things like their social status, appearance, etc. People use many types of social media platforms. I could promote change by looking out for verbal abuse or anything that may hurt someone. I could attempt to point out the wrong in these actions. By taking these steps, I hope to contribute to the continuance of Dr. King's legacy.

Every person is unique and should be proud of who they are. Dr. Martin Luther King's life was one of inspiration, change, and devotion to equality and justice. I believe that each of us can carry out his legacy by acting upon what the inspiring legend preached. It is up to us to maintain Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream of equality for all.

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The Journey is Not Complete

