



# Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Writing Prompt 2018

## *Living the Dream for All: Every Day in Every Way*

### Writing Task:

In a speech given in 1963, The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “The ultimate test of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy” ([www.thekingcenter.org](http://www.thekingcenter.org)).

What personal choices do people make each day that bring Dr. King’s dream alive? Research and/or document an example of an individual (past or present) who chose or chooses--despite any inconvenience or challenge—to act in a way that brings Dr. King’s vision for a peaceful and fulfilled life for everyone to reality.

Write a narrative non-fiction essay in which you tell this person’s story for a magazine feature on “Champions of Dr. King’s Dream,” showing how the person you select represents the theme *“Living the Dream For All: Every Day in Every Way.”*

“I Have a Dream”: <https://www.archives.gov/files/press/exhibits/dream-speech.pdf>

### Checklist for your writing:

- Refer to the California Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, Writing Standard 3.
- Have a clear purpose and maintain your focus on the topic.
- Use evidence from interviews, printed sources and/or from other appropriate, grade-level sources.
- Use a variety of transitional words, phrases and clauses.
- Use vocabulary that fits your audience and purpose.
- Grades 4-6 need to **provide a list** of sources to give credit for the information; Grades 7-12 should **cite sources** and include a bibliography page.
- Turn your writing in to your classroom teacher who will then register you online and upload your school’s winning essays.

#### **For more information, please contact:**

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