

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.!

WE THANK YOU FOR BEING A LEADER AND STANDING UP **FOR**  
JUSTICE AND **AGAINST** INEQUALITY

MLK Weekend Project

**Due January 5th, 2017**

Write your own version of the speech that Martin Luther King Jr. gave in Washington DC, on August 28, 1963 entitled I Have A Dream. Because this is a social commentary piece of writing, your version should reflect the problems you see in our world today. Use your family members, neighbors, people in your community, and entries from past S.S. units in your S.S. Nbk. You may also want to look at the student mentor text attached to this. Your speech should inspire the “general populace” – **OUR** people - to make the changes you want to see. Try to connect to people’s sense of justice – what people know is right and wrong.

- Use the **patterns** from the original *I Have a Dream* speech that we found in class. The repeating lines, words, and structure (how the parts go together) will help you write your speech.
- Possible ideas to think about:
  - a place where you currently see something that bugs you, but that you hope will change
  - a person or group of people that do things that bug you, but that you hope will change
  - an action that the person can’t do, but that you hope they one day can
  - a thing that a place lacks, but that you hope will one day be present
  - a right that people don’t have now, but you hope they will someday
- You should use **repetition** as MLK did with the heaviest words and phrases of his speech (‘free at last’, ‘we will not be satisfied’, ‘let freedom ring’).
- You should use **figurative language** (metaphors, similes, alliteration, etc.)
- You should think about **rhythm** (combining long and short lines)
- Your speech should be **1-2 pages typed, double-spaced, size 12 or 14 font**. The challenge will be to communicate your sense of urgency in such a short amount of time. One way to think about it is writing one paragraph for each social issue you feel is important to OUR Beloved Community.
- Use this time to think about what you would say if you were up there on the podium addressing thousands of people across the city! Start up conversations with everyone you know!
- HAVE FUN!

## Social Action Words & Phrases

power  
empower  
free  
freedom  
emancipate  
ability  
connect

struggle  
fight  
strike  
march  
chant  
protest  
boycott  
uprising  
action  
rise-up  
advocate

disempower  
oppress  
oppression  
discriminate  
punish  
trap  
isolate  
bully  
prison - imprison

society  
demand  
demands  
conditions

working conditions  
learning conditions  
rights  
laws  
wages

upper class  
lower class  
working class  
peasants

fair - fairness  
equal - equality - inequality  
just - justice - injustice  
liberty

relief  
release

sexism  
child labor  
factory  
racism  
segregation  
bigotry  
ageism  
classism  
heterosexism  
antisemitism  
ableism  
militarism