

In his “I Have a Dream” speech, Martin Luther King, Jr. was trying to persuade Americans to move forward towards freedom, justice, and equality as well as trying to send a message of hope to Black Americans.

If Dr. King were alive today and giving a speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., what do you think he would say? More importantly, if you had the attention of an audience of that size, what would you say?

You will be writing a speech to be given this week to address inequality, injustice, and your dreams for the future.

Try to copy Dr. King’s writing style as closely as possible. Notice the imagery, metaphors, references to famous quotations, and persuasive devices he used.

PREWRITING

What has happened in the last 51 years that would make him proud or discouraged?

Address those issues but remember to keep a hopeful tone. What could be changed?

What problems are still facing America?

What advice would you give Americans?

What other injustices are happening in our world? What changes would you like to see?

How might we go about changing them?

What do you hope your future looks like? This can be personal.

This is not a speech to insult politicians or other groups. It is a speech to talk about your hopes and dreams for a better world, for equality and justice, and to share your vision of a good life for you, your community, your country, and your world.

DRAFTING

Write an introductory paragraph in which you make a few remarks about why you’re speaking today. It shouldn’t be “...because my English teacher made me...”

Write one paragraph (or more if you need to) answering each of the above questions.

Write one paragraph in summary, stating your final remarks for the future. This is where you can address your hopes and dreams.

REVISION

After you’ve written a rough draft, you will look for opportunities to improve vocabulary choices, add effective literary devices (metaphor, personification, simile, alliteration, or imagery), and utilize oratorical (refrain or repetition, dramatic pause, or hyperbole) and persuasive (ethos, pathos, logos) devices.

PROOFREADING

When you finish the rough draft of your speech, you will read it to one or two students in class to practice.

FORMAT

This will be a verbatim speech. You should have it written out in a 14 point, double spaced, easy to read font. Grammar and spelling will be graded as well. The focus will be on commas and capitalization.

It needs to be a at least 1 1/2 to 2 minute speech. The only way to know this is to read it aloud and time it.

The presentation will be graded on voice, eye contact, gestures, and overall effectiveness.

These will be recorded for you to assess yourself as a speaker.