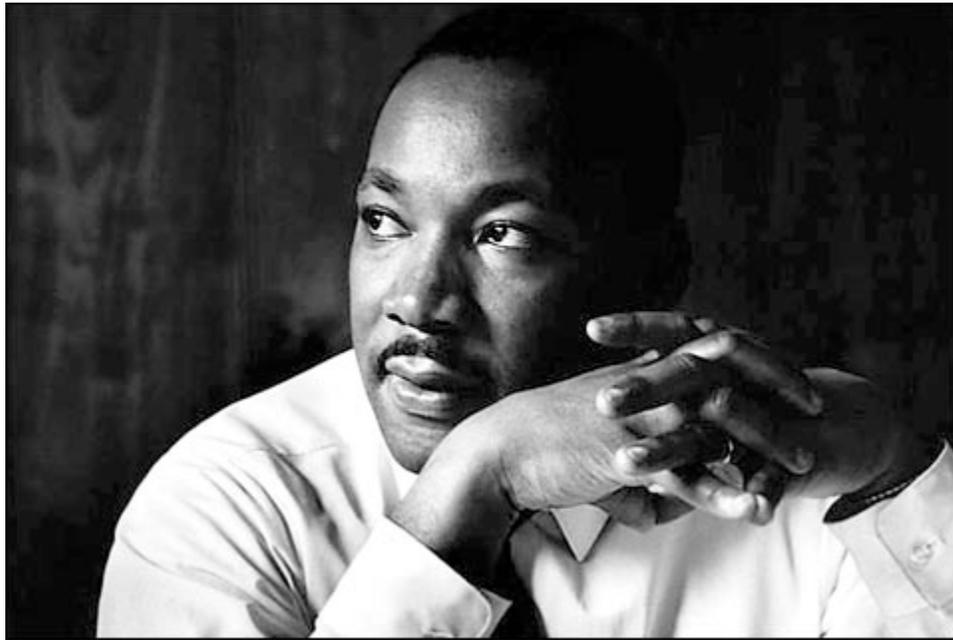


LEGACY OF A DREAM

ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS



30th ANNUAL
COMMEMORATIVE TRIBUTE
TO THE LIFE AND WORK OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2015
IRVINGTON HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
1253 CLINTON AVENUE, IRVINGTON, NJ 07111
COMMENCING AT 2:00 PM

SPONSORED BY
THE IRVINGTON DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE

Isaiah Watts – 1st Place
Thurgood Marshall
3rd grade

In the poem, MLK, the author names several ways people should be treated and I chose to write about treating people kind and fair.

One way of being kind is by lending a helping hand to people. If someone falls, you should not laugh or make fun of them because that is being mean and not kind. Another way to be kind is to help your classmates. For instance if your teacher gives the class a math problem and a boy or girl doesn't know the answer, but you do ; instead of laughing because he or she got the answer wrong, you can say, "It's okay at least you tried."

Dr. King also talked about how we should be fair. One way of being fair is to be patient with autistic students. My school has several classes with autistic students and we must practice being patient with them autistic kids usually need help with something. It could be something like helping to unzip their coat, find a page in a book or be a friend at lunch time. So we shouldn't get frustrated when they need help; we should just be patient with them! Teachers can also be fair and not show favoritism towards any student in the class.

If a student has a problem with another student in class then the teacher should always give both sides the opportunity to tell their side. If that doesn't work and the teacher doesn't know whom to believe then both of them should be spoken to; without making one feel worst than the other one.

In another famous poem titled, "Martin Luther King, Jr.", Dr. King described what would make our country great. Dr. King's way of making our country great was showing love instead of hate. An example of showing love instead of hate would be if you have a disagreement with someone in your school or even your community you should talk it out and not argue or fight because then you might become enemies. If you talked about it you just might be able to work together and become the best of friends. Another way Dr. King talked about for making our country great is by doing right in whatever situation we are in, because right overcomes wrong.

No matter what, If you know someone that has done something wrong, an adult or someone in charge should be told, because that is the right thing to do. We should never take matters into our own hands. We need someone with more experience and wisdom to help us make the right decisions. That's what Dr. King did! He looked for ways to help people make the right decisions and do the right thing so our country will always be great!

Dr. King was a pastor and a civil rights leader for all of America. Dr. King practiced what he believed, nonviolence and respect for all people. Both poems talked about how people should be treated to make this world a better place. In the poem MLK it talks about treating people kind and being fair to them.

In the poem, Martin Luther King Jr, it talked about how we as people could make our country a great place. If we would follow Dr. King beliefs and show love instead of hate and believe that right overcomes wrong, then we as people can make our country a great place.

Nia Rubio - 2nd Place
Chancellor Avenue School
Grade 3

In the poem, the author mentions different ways people should treat each other. Two ways that really mean a lot to me are being kind and finding ways to show how you care. Both ideas support Martin Luther King's belief in non-violence and human rights.

Kindness to me is having respect and caring enough to keep people safe. During Dr. Martin Luther King's time, he wanted the black and white people to care for each other in all ways. His legacy is the dream of equality and fairness. Recently Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin, Eric Gardner got shot. They all got shot by police officers. The way we could continue Martin's dream is by making sure that these unfair incidents do not happen again.

A way to live Martin's dream is by showing others how we care. It does not matter the color of the person's skin. In the past, there were both blacks and whites holding up signs to protest against the unfair ways blacks were treated. Many citizens showed how much they care by uniting and fighting against unfairness. Today, no matter what our differences are, we can be friends, not fight and solve our problems without violence.

In the other poem, Martin Luther King, the author mentions equality and making the rights overcome the wrongs. Any country would be great with equality and citizens making the right decisions for themselves and each other.

When you treat people equally you show them you care. You give them the same concern you would give yourself. You give them the same opportunity as everyone else. Making the right overcome the wrongs is important so that people do not feel hurt and cheated. Citizens have to know that they are being cared for and others will treat them the way they deserve to be treated. We can give hope to all people if we work together and not fight. We can consider not fighting and helping all people feel joyful and happy about their lives.

Both poems are about being kind, and fair to everyone. The author of the poem advises us not to fight and to work as a team. The second poem says for us to stand united and be friends.

Ashley Alvarez – 3rd Place
University Elementary School
Grade 3

One way that people should be treated is kindly. Treating people kindly would keep with Dr. King's legacy of non-violence and human rights for all people. This is what Dr. King wanted for all people. For example, he did not use any violence against people that did not like him because of his race or those people who protested against him even when they got violent with him. He treated everyone kindly and preached everyone should do the same.

Another way Dr. King believed people should be treated is fairly. Dr. King believed everyone should be treated fairly and with respect no matter what their race was. Dr. King believed everyone should have equal rights.

According to Martin Luther King Jr, our country would truly be great if we all showed love to each other instead of hate. Dr. King told everyone we should show love to each other even if they cause us harm. He wanted all races to love each other and treat each other respectfully and equally

Another way Dr. King said we could make our country truly great is to live as friends in peace. Dr. King wanted us to come together and live as friends in peace. He wanted us to come together and create a non-violent, peaceful country. Dr. King wanted all people of all races to come together.

The theme of both poems is being kind and treating people fairly. The poem "MLK" is about how we should treat each other. In the poem "Martin Luther King Jr. ", the author writes about ways to make our country great. The theme of both poems is the same. It doesn't matter what race we are, we should love one another and treat each other kindly and fairly. All people should unite to create a country of love and peace where everyone is treated fairly.

Madison Maney – 1st Place
Madison Avenue School
Grade 4

The legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is one that will live on for many generations to come. In the poem titled “MLK” the author names several ways people should be treated. Two of those ways are “to treat people kindly” and “to change wrong to right.”

Treating people kindly would be in keeping with Dr. King’s legacy of non-violence and human rights for all people. An example of how to treat people kindly is to show respect to everyone regardless of their age or race. Recently, I met with senior citizens at a local senior center. I was very nice and kind to the elders that I met. I tried to be as helpful as possible. This is a good example of Dr. King’s message of showing love and kindness to others.

A good example of how to change what is wrong to right would be for all people to encourage others to do the right thing. Once, I saw two kids who were having a disagreement. They were very angry and it was leading to a fight. I stopped them, and explained that it was better for them to use their words and not their fists. Dr. King’s legacy of non-violence is based on his strong belief that we can reach our goals without hurting one another. This is exactly what Dr. King would want me to do.

In the poem titled “Martin Luther King, Jr.” the author identified several ways to make “Our Country Truly Great.” Two of those ways are “showing love instead of hate” and standing “united together in this land.”

In my opinion, when Dr. King wrote that we should show love instead of hate, he meant that we should love each other regardless of our differences. I think he also meant that we should make peace with other nations; that we should be friends and not enemies.

In my opinion, when Dr. King dreamed we would stand united in this land, he meant that we are all one people—American people. He believed that we should work together as a team to accomplish our goals as a nation.

The theme or message in both poems is that together we can make our country greater. In the poem “MLK” the author writes that we must “change what is wrong, but please do not fight.” Also in the poem “Martin Luther King, Jr.” the theme is supported by the verse that we should “live as friends in peace today.” I think if we work together we can continue Dr. King’s legacy.

Osayamen Amowie – 2nd Place
Berkeley Terrace School
Grade 4

The poem titled “MLK” discusses ways to be non-violent. One way mentioned is to “change what is wrong”. In order to change what is wrong like teasing and name-calling (forms of bullying), we must stand up and speak out against it. You should never bully or tease anyone; especially when you are making fun of someone’s culture. Another person’s culture should be admired and not ridiculed. Our differences bring us together as a great country. Without fighting and teasing we can change what is wrong by encouraging people to do what is right.

Another way the poem mentioned is “treat people kindly”. People can treat others kindly by complementing a person. Dr. King didn’t like violence and he discussed this in his speech that people should be treated by “the content of their character”. People should be treated with kindness. When you treat someone with kindness and respect, the person in return will treat you with kindness and respect. That is how Dr. King made this part of his life’s work and non-violent stance.

The poem titled “Martin Luther King, Jr.” has ways to how we can make our country truly great. One of those ways the poem mentioned is to “live as friends in peace today”. My opinion on what that means is today in The United States of America we should all be friends and have peace. We should all strive to be equal, don’t bully and if you can’t be friends, we should still respect one another’s differences.

Another way the poem mentioned is “the beauty of equality”. In my opinion what that means is, a person should be equal no matter their skin color, size, religion or country of origin. Everyone in my school and people everywhere should not be judged by what they look like. You may feel that a person may not be as smart as you, but that doesn’t mean that you should treat them any differently. The beauty of equality is that every person gets his or her equal share.

After reading both poems “MLK” and “Martin Luther King, Jr.”, I believe the theme is that each person in this country is no different than the next person. There aren’t any reasons that can be given why a one person should get treated differently from another. The only way that we can make a change in this country is to stand together and not be divided.

Zaniyah Harris – Grade 3
Chancellor Avenue School
Grade 4

Who is the man who gave us freedom? Who is the man who had a dream? It was Dr. Martin Luther King. He's the one who made peace for our country. He's the man who stood up to save us.

In the poem, "MLK", the author tells us that all people should be treated fairly. Martin Luther King stood up for others to help do that. One thing that the author said we could do to treat people fairly is by working as a team. We can set a protest to get the message out about what we want. If we work as a team we can do what's right. Another way we can get treated fairly is by taking the time to work things out with people, instead of fighting. Fighting makes things worse. Violence is not the answer. Settling disagreements with non-violence is what we need in this world.

Dr. King made this country truly great in so many ways. In the poem, Martin Luther King, Jr. the author tells you that Dr. King said that right overcomes wrong. What he is trying to say is that when we do the right thing we forget about what was wrong so we can live in peace and to forget about the hard times that we've had. What makes this country great is that we show love instead of hate with one another. Love is what brings us together and hate keeps us apart. Dr. King would not tolerate hate in this country, so that is why we have our freedom today.

In the poems MLK and Martin Luther King, Jr, the theme is all about the remembrance of Dr. King and how he gave us freedom and the respect we need. He taught not to fight to and to work to change what is wrong. We now stand together, united in this land. Now we see the beauty of equality. This is the importance of life.

We thank Dr. King and appreciate what he has done. The freedom we have will always live. We will now forget the horrible things we have seen. We now honor the man who said, "*I HAVE A DREAM!*"

Stephen Danso – 1st Place
Madison Avenue School
Grade 5

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a heroic figure during the Civil Rights Movement. People honored him in many different ways including poetry. In the poems titled MLK, and Martin Luther King, Jr., the authors name several ways people should be treated. One idea that was mentioned was to treat people kindly. Treating people kindly is pretty easy if you ask me. Being kind costs absolutely nothing and saying please or thank you isn't difficult either. For example, sharing your lunch with someone who didn't bring lunch or showing the new kid in class, around are simple ways to show kindness. Being kind is treating others with respect. If you show kindness, not only will you receive it in return, but you will also be fulfilling Dr. King's dream.

A second idea that was mentioned in the poem, MLK was to show that you care. Showing that you care can be demonstrated in many ways. For instance, holding the door for someone or shaking the hand of a serviceman and saying "Thank you for protecting our country," is the least one can do. Showing that you care means to say the Pledge of Allegiance with respect. If you share, you are putting effort into helping someone who may not have what you have. During the month of March, my family and I donate items to our church. We show that we care and in the process, we honor the legacy of Dr. King.

The author of the poem, Martin Luther King, Jr. identifies several ways to make "Our Country Truly Great." Our country can be great by showing the beauty of equality. The beauty of equality is that all people are equal regardless of race, gender, or religious beliefs. I am so grateful that the Fourteenth Amendment was passed down in 1868. If we still did not have equal rights, it would mean that I wouldn't be as intelligent as I am today. Without equal rights we would still have to use bathrooms, restaurants, and stores labeled "colored only." Because of Dr. King, we don't have to live in misery. Instead, everyone enjoys the same freedoms. Equality is one thing I love about America.

Dr. King's dream for equality showed us "that hope can turn the weak to strong." Turning the weak to strong means helping those who cannot help themselves. Did you ever hear anyone say "sharing is caring?" One way to turn the weak to strong is by giving to the less fortunate. Additionally, trusting in yourself and thinking positive thoughts allows you to become not physically but mentally strong. Stress and negative thoughts are things that make you weaker by the moment.

Have you ever been in situations where everyone is urging you to do the wrong thing? Although the right thing is not what everyone wants, sometime people have to fight through it. A common theme of the poems, MLK and Martin Luther King, Jr. is to do the right thing. Decision making is hard, but making the wrong decision is easy. In the poem, MLK, the author stated “think of ways to change wrong to right.” Dr. King did just that. He fought for rights using words instead of violence. The world can do the same. Leaders today must continue to set positive examples so others can follow and make the world a better place. This is what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would want.

Esther Arhewoh – 2nd Place
Berkeley Terrace School
Grade 5

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a great father, a great husband, a great pastor, a non-violent person and the only black American to have a national holiday in America. His legacy was all about human rights for all people through non-violence. The two poems titled MLK and MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., represent Dr. King's legacy in several ways.

One way the author in the poem MLK states that a person should be treated is in a kindly manner. This is the way of doing what is fair; a way of treating people kindly. This is keeping with Dr. King's legacy of non-violence and human rights for all people. It is making people feel welcome because it's not good to bully people, tease people or shove people around. It makes people commit suicide or murder. It's good to be polite and treat people kindly and have their back when they need it the most. This is one way that the author believes people should be treated.

A second way the author states a person should be treated, is working for all people. This is a way of showing that you care, and keeping with Dr. King's legacy of non-violence and human rights for all people. An example is doing work for a friend, when your friend is not around, or doing the right thing even when no adults are there to check on you. Dr. King didn't focus on only making things better for his family. He wanted things to be better for everyone. This shows another way the author believes people should be treated.

The author of the poem titled, Martin Luther King Jr., identifies several ways to make our country truly great. The author states, "He had a dream that we would stand, United together in this land." When I read this little part of the poem, all I could think of was, "United we Stand, divided we fall." This is my motto whenever I work with a group. It's like a single broomstick; it can be broken easily but with a bundle of broomsticks, it is hard to be broken. If the whole world comes together as one nothing will be able to defeat us. I think the author is trying to explain that was if we all put our heads together to solve a problem, we would be able to solve it, because two or more minds is better than one. This is one way to make our country truly great.

The second way would be when the author said, "He wanted each of us to see. The beauty of equality." It took a little while to decipher what the saying meant but when I thought about it longer it all came clear to me. All it was trying to say, was we should be able to accept each other no matter our sex, race, religion, etc. We should be able to put that aside and treat each other equally. Equality was hard to get during the olden days. It was that bad that families hated that one of their relations was disabled. They were called retarded, which is now often the name to call somebody foolish or stupid. For

example, in a class two girls one called Mandy and the other Emily, they both are very good students but the teacher always ignore Mandy, picks Emily for everything. It's okay for the teacher to have a favorite pupil but it's not good to treat a person like they are worthless. If we value each other and treat them equally with respect, they would work harder and better for the good of all of us. This is another way to make our country truly great.

These poems represent all the things that Dr. King wanted the world to know. Dr. King wanted people to work together to solve problems. This lesson is clear. Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy was all about human rights for all people through non-violence. It is in these ways that the poems MLK and MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., represent Dr. King's legacy.

Sanaa Warner – 3rd Place
Grove Street Elementary School
Grade 5

According to the poem, MLK, one way that people should be treated is kindly. Dr. King always preached about being kind to one another. It was very important to him that everyone is treated equally. When people mistreat one another, it shows that they do not treat each other fairly. It also shows that they have bad character traits. I can keep this legacy alive today by treating people with respect. You can help out with your parents and with the elderly. You can also keep the legacy alive by not being disrespectful. Another way is to not do things that you know are wrong. You can show kindness by not doing things to hurt the feelings of others but to make them feel good about themselves.

After reading, MLK, I noticed that another way people should be treated is with fairness. To show fairness you can help people who help you. One way is to help out with your siblings, particularly your younger siblings. You can also show fairness by helping teachers. I can keep this legacy alive by taking turns, sharing, and allowing others to have chances like I do.

One example from the poem, Martin Luther King Jr., is that Dr. Martin Luther King wanted for us to live as friends, in peace. I think that he meant to love everyone and not create confusion. We should all live in peace. I also believe he meant no fighting or demonstrating any type of disrespectful behavior towards each other.

Another statement they made in the poem, Martin Luther King, Jr., was to understand the beauty of equality. His message was that we all equal regardless of the color of our skin. I think that this meant to enjoy the beauty of being together and living in harmony. He also meant for us all to understand and respect the rights of others.

The theme of both poems MLK, and Martin Luther King, Jr., is that we should all be treated equally. Dr. King wished for all races to come together as one and work together as a team to make this world a better place for us all.

Daisy Woods – 1st Place
Union Avenue Middle School
Grade 6

One inspirational leader once said, “Our lives begin to end the day that we become silent about the things that matter.” This man was named Martin Luther King Jr. What this wise man is saying, is that when we stop caring about life, life is pointless. We must then create a blueprint for our lives in order to be successful. If you don’t know what a blueprint is, according to Webster’s Dictionary, a blueprint is a detailed outline or plan of action. We must draft our blueprint in order to be successful in life. We must draft our blueprint in order to find the “opening doors” of opportunity and chance for a better future. We must draft our blueprint so that we are able to face these doors. A simple plan of action, or guide is all you need to lead you on the right path towards success. As you commence to further read, try and absorb and “soak in” how the creation of a blueprint can make our lives very successful.

First and foremost, drafting a blueprint for life is important. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “A building is not well erected without a good solid blueprint.” One relevant reason for creating a blueprint is to guide you through life. It can show you which paths to take on the road of life. These paths or directions will lead you to either success or failure. Having a well-edited blueprint will give you great stability in life. All of your decisions will be well planned and thought out. No decision shall outweigh another or have priority. This will allow everything to run smoothly. If you do happen to have struggles that trip you up in life or cause interference, you can always adjust or readjust your blueprint. You can take the unnecessary things out of that draft and replace the relevant ones as priority. This will ensure us that our blueprint has a sturdy foundation. The benefit of having stability is that you are always alert of the things that could cause your life to be potentially successful or to become a total disaster. With a blueprint you can visually see which roads to avoid and any obstacles in your way. A blueprint prepares you for a great future. It gives you an outline of your goals and plans out the steps to achieve them. There is no single reason that your life cannot be successful. These are just a handful of reasons why blueprints are a necessity of life.

By the same token, lots of doors are opening to us today that are filled with opportunity. Martin Luther King Jr. said that you should have the “determination to achieve excellence.” When these doors swing open, numerous things are available to you. One such thing is freedom. As you begin your life journey, realize that you can achieve anything in life. No one is in control of you any longer. Slavery is over with! You have the opportunity to take advantage of all of your rights. When you turn eighteen, you can vote. This is a huge right to now be a part in choosing our leaders. When these doors open, you will find that your extensive years of education finally pay off. All of the hard

work will be worth it. Stay in school as long as you can. There will be plenty uses of new and advanced technology beyond this door. Technology can be used in almost any way. Information is literally at our fingertips. Behind these opening doors there will be plenty of job opportunities. Your everlasting labor will pay off, and finding a job won't prove to be difficult.

No doubt, preparing to face these doors of opportunity is a major concern. An intellectual man once said, "set out to do it as if God Almighty called you down to do it." So you should have confidence. Be ready to accomplish all the goals that you set out for. Never feel scared or intimidated. Fear is the key to disaster, not success. Do not ever let people put you down. They are going to be jealous of you because you are doing so much better than them. Do not even sweat it! Always do your best. Never give up, no matter what! Even if it does not go as planned, you can always say that you tried your best. Remember to make the right choices. Don't do anything that can harm your healthy lifestyle. This will only derail you on your train towards success. No matter what, always believe that you count. Never second-guess yourself. This is where most people go wrong!

Ultimately, a blueprint will guarantee that I "do such a good job that the living, the dead, and the unborn could not do it any better." This will ensure that I am able to get jobs easier. They will be high paying jobs. Nothing close to a street sweeper! With a well-planned blueprint, I'd never be lost. My blueprint will navigate me through my struggles, as well as my problems. With this great foundation, progress towards the future will be inevitable. I will continue to take all the steps outlined in my blueprint until I reach what I want to accomplish. This will be the greatest draft I will ever write. I'll be there in no time. My final draft will be amazing. All the planning will be worth it. I will eventually reach my dream destination: That place with lots of money, knowledge, and ultimately happiness! It will truly be my greatest piece of writing to date!

Rafiyah Pollard – 2nd Place
Union Avenue Middle School
Grade 6

If you do not have a blueprint for life, let me tell you right now; make one! And if you think this is not something that will help get you to where you need to be in life, you will soon be regretting those words. The great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has made it clear to us, that today, we as individuals have many opportunities in life. Ones that “our mothers nor fathers had before us.” A guide or plan for life known as a “blueprint” will be crucial for our future and will prove to keep us on the right path to our final destination: success! Answer these questions in your head: Why do we need a blueprint for life? What does the phrase “doors are opening mean?” Why is it important to face these “open doors?” Lastly, How does a blueprint prepare us for life? As my mother always said, “it is not what you do, it’s what you do with it.” You could have the worst job ever, like being a housekeeper, but if you clean that house better than “anyone did before you, or after you,” as a wise man once said, you will be known from that day forward for how great you clean! But in order for us to achieve this type of success, we need a “guiding” light, a plan of action. A blueprint! Let us take a moment to ponder over why this is true.

First and foremost, having a blueprint is an essential factor of a successful life. It prepares you for your future. It prepares you by slowly guiding you step by step until you reach that final destination; the end. And it helps you plan out your future. It essentially provides you with a backup plan in case anything goes wrong along the way, or you run into obstacles or struggles. You will always be prepared for the worse. For example, if you want to be a lawyer your entire life, and that does not work out, you will have a backup plan; a guide to get back on track. In addition, a blueprint forces you to follow your dreams or goals. It does this by urging you to strive to be better than anyone else in whatever you chose to do. It also builds your foundation or starting point. It helps you start your career off. It is a building block for your future. It pushes you to do your very best. As you can see, a blueprint is essential for life.

In addition to a blueprint being significant in life; we must be aware that doors of many opportunities are opening. Today, we as students have the opportunity of receiving a magnificent education. During the times of segregation African Americans did not get a great education. African Americans back in those days were not as intelligent as whites were. But that is not true today. We all have the chance to be great, to succeed. As Dr. King said “Always feel your worth, feel that your life is important.” Another right we have is the right to vote. Two groups of people who suffered from a minority status in the early 1800s were slaves and women. They had no say in any major decisions in life. That was totally unfair! At least today, everyone can vote: males or females, whites, blacks,

Hispanics, Latinos, and other races. We have the freedom to choose to go wherever we want. Slaves could not go anywhere without their owner telling them they could. We are our own “owner” today! Nowadays, we have the freedom to go wherever we choose to go. Many opportunities are available to us! What we do with these opportunities is the real question!

No doubt, it is extremely imperative that we are ready to face these “open doors.” The great Dr. King once said, “Always believe in yourself. Never let anyone tell you can’t achieve your goal.” Whoever is trying to bring you down, they are already below you! If they do not achieve their goals, they want you to be like them, “a failure” but don’t let that get in your way! Stay on your path. Follow your blueprint. Let it guide you in the right direction. “Even if you have to sweep streets, sweep those streets the better than anybody ever did.” City Hall will always call you to sweep those streets. According to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., “Push yourself to study hard, to burn the midnight oil.” Study! Study hard! If you want to become a doctor, a lawyer, or even a police officer you have to study hard. So remember, just go for it. Opportunities do not just come pouring out of some sort of faucet; you have to use the opportunities you get. One day in the future, these opportunities may not exist.

Ultimately, drafting a life blueprint will prepare me in many ways. It prepares me for future problems and struggles. If I do not take the time to plan out this guide, I will not have a plan of action in case my original plan fails. My blueprint will serve as a backup! According to the powerful Dr. King, you must have “the determination to achieve excellence” in the various fields of whatever you choose to do. Your blueprint should at least start out with attending college! From there, continue drafting. This will help you build your life’s foundation. May I ask you a question? Do you have a proper, solid and a sound blueprint? If you already have a blueprint, you’re on the right path for your future success. If you have not created a blueprint for life, I urge you to begin your first draft. It may only be a rough draft, but that is what revision is for! Go create your blueprint! Hopefully, it will be your guiding light to success as well!

Kelvin Zamor – 3rd Place
Union Avenue Middle School
Grade 6

The world famous Martin Luther King Jr. once asked, “What is your life’s blueprint?” In case you don’t know what a blueprint is, it is a detailed outline or plan of action according to www.Dictionary.com. It is imperative to have a blueprint in life. A blueprint in life is a guide, a step-by-step plan to reach your destination; the goal you wish to accomplish. There are four questions I ask myself. Why is it important to have a blueprint for life? What does it mean that the doors of opportunity are opening to us today? Why is it important to face these doors of opportunity? And how can having a blueprint prepare me for the future? Continue reading to find the answers to these questions.

First and foremost, it is essential to have a blueprint in life. A blueprint is a plan of action to help you in the future. Let us say that you want to be a pediatrician, a children’s doctor, you must go through eleven years of school after high school to be an official pediatrician. So you would put that on your life’s blueprint. This blueprint would plan out the steps you must take in order reach that goal of becoming that doctor! Since you wanted to be a pediatrician, you would set that goal in your mind and work hard to accomplish it. That is the same for any other job. If you wanted to be a police officer or a firefighter, you would also set that goal in your mind and work hard to accomplish that goal. A blueprint would also help keep you on track. It will help you stay focused. Staying on the right path plays a major role in your life’s blueprint. Your life’s blueprint is a very important thing. A blueprint actually helps you get to your destination or the place you are trying to get to. That place is your goal. The goal you are trying to accomplish. Lastly, a blueprint helps you move up in life and lets you know exactly what you’re going to do. A blueprint is critical.

Furthermore, the doors of opportunity are right around the corner. We have more opportunities than did the individuals who lived prior to us. We have better wages. In 1960, the minimum wage was way lower than today’s minimum wage. Minimum wage in 1960 was \$1.00 according to www.Answers.com. We also have better jobs. The jobs are better because they give more pay. A long time ago, we didn’t have many opportunities to get jobs. We also have better technology and a more innovative world. With technology, there are more opportunities to learn and become more knowledgeable. With technology we learned to convert solar power into electricity. Lastly, we have better education. Back in the day African American teachers who weren’t taught so well themselves taught African American children. So African American children did not get good education. Now, children get taught well and have the opportunity to go to a good college and earn a good job. We have an abundant amount of opportunities.

Above all, it is a necessity to face the doors of opportunity. You have to stand up and grab a hold of those opportunities. If you let those opportunities run away, that is it. You may not get them back. I will use my education to get a good job. I will end up being

a pediatrician, firefighter, police officer, or even something bigger such as the President of the United States. Education will help me excel in life. I will use my opportunity of getting a good job and work hard so I do not get fired. As Martin Luther King said, "Burn the midnight oil." I will do what I have to do in order to succeed. I do not know what I am going to be, but I will be the best I can be at whatever it is! With technology, I have knowledge right at my fingertips. I can find anything I want to learn on the Internet. I can find things such as when Christopher Columbus "found" America? Or when George Washington became President? Lastly, with education I can focus so I could be at the top of the class, get a great scholarship, and graduate with honors. I will not fool around with my peers and will not let people persuade me into doing the wrong things. I will face the doors of opportunity!

Ultimately, having a blueprint can help prepare me for my future life. If I draft a blueprint, I can get the job I always wanted, be successful in life, have at least a decent salary, know what I want to be in life, and most of all it, be confident! I will do the best I can in this life. I will never look back. As Martin Luther King said, whatever it is that you choose to do in life, "set out to do it well!" That is exactly what I plan on doing!

Salissa Rajigadoo – 1st Place
Union Avenue Middle School
Grade 7

How far ahead have you planned out your life? Do you even *have* a life plan? Did you even begin to sketch its outline? Truth be told, most of us do not. We choose to “worry about it when the time comes.” By the time we start taking your future seriously, it is already too late. Dr. King wanted the youth of America to realize this. Therefore, on October 26, 1967 Barratt Junior High School in Philadelphia, he gave a speech in which he asked; “What Is Your Life’s Blueprint?”

In his speech, Dr. King addresses three main points we need to focus on. He refers to doors opening. He emphasizes on being ready to face those doors as they open. He states that having a blueprint helps prepare for opportunities. The real question is: why? Why do we need to be ready? What does he mean by “opening doors”? How can a blueprint prepare you for these chances? Let us dissect this.

What does Dr. King mean when he talks about doors opening? Opportunity. Chances. In his speech, Dr. King says, “Doors are opening to you...doors of opportunities that were not open to your mothers and fathers.” He speaks of the opportunities and chances we all fail to realize that we have. Things our ancestors wanted but couldn’t have are at our disposal, and we never even give them second glances before forgetting about them. When we realize that the doors are closing, we rush to get in, but it is too late, and history repeats itself.

This brings me to the next question. Why is it important to be ready to face these doors as they open? As I mentioned before, people take too much time to realize what they have, resulting in them missing the chance. I thought this question over a million times, and I always go back to the question that preceded it. To truly understand the importance of being able to face the doors, we need to know about them opening. Doors of opportunity are not open 24/7. They close, and people miss them. This is due to the lack of preparation for them. If people were ready for opportunity, they would not miss out on one. Times are changing. Nobody can afford to be unprepared and lose the chance of his or her lifetime.

Moving on to the big question, how can having a blueprint help you prepare for that opportunity? A blueprint is a plan. Can a plan help you become more prepared? Yes, it can. Dr. King says, “A blueprint serves as the guide, and a building is not well erected without a good, solid blueprint.” You are the building Dr. King talks about. Without a plan, your life is not well erected. How solid is your blueprint? Can it withstand disaster and keep you intact? Think about it. If you don’t have a plan, a guide, you’re lost. You

need a foundation to support your future. This is where your blueprint comes in. By planning ahead, you are ready for those doors. You are ready for opportunities. You know what to do. You have planned for this. Your blueprint kept you on track and prepared you for whatever comes ahead. Your blueprint got you ready to do your life's work.

Whatever lies in your blueprint is up to you. My blueprint consists of a Master's degree in Language Arts and a solid, full-time job as a college professor. This is *my* blueprint, and it will guide and prepare me for my future. What college will you go to? What's your ideal profession? How will you get there? Dr. King discusses how a blueprint will answer these questions. So, start your rough draft. Sketch the outline of your blueprint. Do it now, and you will be thankful later. We have covered the benefits of a blueprint, but it's up to you to draw your own. I recommend you get started. And if you already have, what *is* your life's blueprint?

Tawofiq Nacanabo - 2nd Place
University Middle School
Grade 7

Life is like constructing a building. It can't be set up without a blueprint or a solid foundation. You won't know which way is out and which way is in. You won't know where any of the doors will lead to without a fine blueprint. Martin Luther King Jr. believed this theory was real and anyone could succeed in life if they crafted a blueprint for their future, early on in life. That's why on October 26th, 1967, Dr. King Jr., led a discussion at a Philadelphia Middle school to a group of students. Within his speech, Dr. King wanted to make sure up and coming generations were aware of the opportunities before them and that they were ready to face these challenges and opportunities with the right tools. In other words, if you have your life set up at a very young age, you know where you are going and definitely cannot fail.

According to Dr. King's speech, "What is your Life's Blueprint," he references, "Doors opening," to mean various opportunities. An opportunity in my opinion means pursuing college after high school or taking high-level classes in high school. Dr. King states, "Doors are opening to you-doors of opportunities that were not open for your mothers and fathers." To me, this quote proves my theory to be true. Our mothers and fathers didn't have the chances we have to become very successful because of the environment they lived in. Dr. King wanted kids today to have a variety of doors opening up to them. And this is an easy task. The doors are already open, all we have to do is walk through them if we are prepared to, which is the reason why having a blueprint early on in life is key.

When Dr. King makes the plea for young people, "To be ready to face these doors as they open," he means that the doors are opening, and the greatest challenge for students and young adults alike is preparing, in order to be ready to face, and walk through those doors when the time comes. What I think Dr. King wanted was for young people to have great opportunities in life, but to make use of it; because once you have that one chance you may never receive that opportunity again. Of course, there will always be doors opening and opportunities that present themselves, but we can never guarantee the same opportunity presenting itself more than once.

Having a blueprint, as mentioned by Dr. King, can help you prepare for any opportunity that comes your way. Once a person already has a plan to start her/his life, there is no telling where the wind may guide their future. One good thing about having a blueprint is if that opportunity you are counting on is no longer available to you, or never comes to fruition, having a blueprint can always help prepare you for other opportunities to fall back on. Either way, as Dr. King states: "If it fails your lot to be a street sweeper,

sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures, sweep streets like Beethoven composed music, sweep streets like Leotyne Price sings before the Metropolitan Opera.” Whatever it is you set out to do in life, do it with integrity and to the best of your ability: “For it isn’t by size that you win or fail. Be the best of whatever you are.” And if you have a blueprint early on in life it’s rare that you will not succeed. “This hasn’t always been true- but it will become increasingly true-and so I would urge you to study hard, to burn the midnight oil.” Dr. King’s speech has made an impact on my young life almost forty years after, and I am sure that if we continue to spread the word, and encourage our young people, we will see a world where everyone will “sweep their job well.”

Whitney Pierre – 3rd Place
Union Avenue Middle School
7th Grade

Let me ask you a question. Take your time to really think about it thoroughly before you reply because it is quite difficult to answer. It is definitely something that you have gone over in your mind before but never got the chance to think about it. So, the question is: what did or what do you want to be when you grow up? A football player? A dancer? How about a chef or a librarian- maybe even the president of the United States, I do not know. So this question got me thinking about my future and what it has in store for me. But then I realized something; the future won't be the one to decide what will happen to me when I grow up.. I do. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. helped me figure that out by explaining the importance of a blueprint and the great challenge of the doors of opportunity.

I have taken plenty of interests in many hobbies that I can't think of, but I have always had a strong passion for singing believe it or not, I hoped and dreamed that one day I could walk down the red carpet with a big smile on my face. But the problem was, I was stuck on making the decision on where I was supposed to go, what road I was supposed to take, and where I would end up at the end. So I did not think much about it until I read what Dr. King said to a group of children at Baratt High School in Philadelphia saying, "Now each of you is in the process of building the structure of your lives, and the question is whether you have a proper, solid and sound blueprint." This excerpt from his "Life's Blueprint" speech explains that in order to reach your goal in your life, you need to make a plan to that goal and find a way to get there. I believe that consequently, there will be some unexpected twists, turns, and potholes that try to slow you down. But you just have to remember that you are doing this for a reason and it's going to take a whole lot more than a bunch of obstacles to stop you, because there's always a door at the end of the road waiting for you no matter how many keys you broke. I am sure everyone can relate to this, like myself, for those who think negatively of my singing, I could care less about them, for I know that I have a plan; a ripped, scratched, and shredded plan, but a plan. And that blueprint will be me rubbing my first music award in everyone's faces as I point, laugh, and say "I told you so!"

Furthermore, Dr. King talked to these students about "the doors of opportunity". This great man said, "And I say to you, my young friends, doors are opening to you - doors of opportunities that were not open to your mothers and fathers – and the great challenge facing you is to be ready to face these doors as they open." This tells us how it may not be what you expect once you reach your goal. I mean you can't expect rainbows and unicorns when you get to your destination, you may not like the outcome. What Dr. King is saying is that you need to be prepared for your future- even though you are the

one planning it out- and once these doors open, there's no telling what is on the other side. I do not expect fame and fortune *if I* get where I want, for all I know I could be selling flyers in a banana costume when I grow up. And that is far from where I want to go. But this is why we need the "blueprint on our lives"; to keep us on track and help us get to where we *want* to go. Even if you did not make it to your dream job, do not be discouraged. If you believe you can do it, then you can do it. If you want to be the next Beyoncé, then be the next Beyoncé, if you want to be the next Barack Obama, then be the next Barack Obama and say, "Yes we can." If you want to be the next Hillary Clinton, go on and be she! If only you set your mind to it, then it will happen. And when that day comes, be grateful for it, for there are people who would want to be in your shoes, the people who could not have a second chance; a second door. So when you finally get to where you want to be, smile and say that you drew your blueprint, stuck to it, and built it.

To sum it all up, we cannot just become something better by the snap of our fingers, we work for it. All those steps you took to get to those doors will be worth it. They will be the problems of yesterday because today is today. Martin Luther King Jr. said some inspirational words to these children and said it with such passion. Dr. King said, "If you can't be a pine at the top of the hills, be a shrub in the valley. Be the best little shrub in the side of the hills. Be a bush, if you can't be a tree. If you can't be a highway, just be a trail. If you can't be a Sun, be a star. For it isn't by the size that you win or fail. Be the best of whatever you are." I agree. Even if you are the lowest ranking at your job, be the best lower ranking worker you can be. So the meaning of this tells you that even if you are lower, weaker, or smaller than everybody else, work as if you were the taller, the strong, and the biggest of everyone else. This clearly explains the meaning of the doors of opportunity and the blueprint of life. If not, then I do not know what is. Dr. King encourages us to be the best we can, and never think less. So keep knocking on that door of opportunity loud enough to let the world know you're waiting, and then eventually, the doors will open.

Bergeline Lysaire – 1st Place
University Middle School
Grade 8

Student Council President Campaign. Check. Six years of French language studies. Check. Four years of volleyball and soccer athletics. Check. Advanced math and science course enrollment. Check. Acceptance into Harvard Medical School...about to be realized. In his 1967 speech, “What is Your Life’s Blueprint?” delivered to middle school students at Barratt Junior High School, Martin Luther King Jr. spoke encouragingly about the importance of having a blueprint in life. My blueprint is to become an anesthesiologist, and the checklist that I spoke of is the running plan I have to reach my goal.

One of the main images in Dr. King’s “Blueprint” speech is that of opening doors. “And I say to you, my young friends, doors are opening to you - doors of opportunities that were not open to your mothers and your fathers - and the great challenge facing you is to be ready to face these doors as they open.” Dr. King is saying that in the people’s fight for civil rights, they diminished boundaries for African Americans and other cultures. This means job opportunities, advanced education, and equal protection of the law. The civil rights movement was a fight for people of all cultures, beliefs, and passions to be accepted as equal. In the words of Barack Obama, “A skinny kid with a funny name believed that America had a place for him, too. His parents gave him an African name meaning ‘blessed,’ believing that in a tolerant America your name is no barrier to success.” Barack Obama is living proof that African Americans can be successful. Barack Obama’s parents imagined their son going to the best schools, even though they could not afford it, “because in a generous America you don’t have to be rich to achieve your potential.” And now he is the 44th President of the United States. The doors King spoke of are open now, and if he were alive today he would want us to grab the opportunity, but we must be ready.

The “Blueprint” is how each of us can be ready. And by “being ready” Martin Luther King meant, “Do well in school, and be a well-rounded person.” Being ready means taking advantage of The Rutgers SMART Program because you want to get a head start on science for next year. Being ready means helping your mother prepare jerk chicken, macaroni, and salad because some day you will have to learn how to feed a family. Being ready means reading books for fun because secretly, you know it will advance your vocabulary. And being ready is a crucial part of my blueprint.

The closing part of King’s “Blueprint” speech is about effort. “And when you discover what you will be in your life, set out to do it as if God Almighty called you at this particular moment in history to do it. Don’t just set out to do a good job. Set out to do such a good job that the living, the dead or the unborn couldn’t do it any better.” King expects us to be the best at whatever we choose, but before we get to be the best in our dreams it is all about the effort. Effort means both parents scrambling at their job and setting money aside for their daughter’s college dreams. Effort is a

student saying “no” to tempting distractions, like television and partying, in favor of solving linear equations. Effort is arriving early and leaving late in every aspect of life. There have been many rewrites and cross outs of my blueprint, but I never questioned why Dr. Martin Luther King believed that effort is the key to achieve excellence.

Oprah Winfrey wisely speaks of the present when she says, “Dr. Martin Luther King dreamed the dream. But we don't have to just dream the dream anymore.” She is saying that Martin Luther King fought to make our dreams become a reality. Before he died, he dreamt of people being judged by their personal character, not by the color of their skin. Dr. Martin Luther King opened the door for our opportunities, and all we have to do is walk through that door with our blueprint in hand. There are some people who cannot walk through their door because they are scared they will not be accepted by our society. Whether they are scared because of their race, their class or even being scared to admit their sexual orientation, no one should be judged for these things. No one should be forced to hide behind their door. The U.S. Constitution states that all men are created equal and Martin Luther King fought to let that apply to everyone. I, myself, will answer to the rapture on my door and invite the opportunities that will make my dreams a reality. I, as the architect, will use my blueprint to build a well-constructed life with opportunities ahead. We can become successful with effort and readiness. And we will be the best at whatever we become.

Nirvair Roberts – 2nd Place
University Middle School
Grade 8

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is an inspiration to people all around the world. In his speech, “What’s Your Life’s Blueprint?” he speaks to children and teens about what they want and what they should do with their lives. He explains that, “each of us is in the process of building the structure of our lives, and the question is whether we have a proper, a solid and a sound blueprint.” He then goes into detail of what our blueprint should encompass.

In the speech, he states, “doors are opening to you- doors of opportunity that were not open to your mothers and your fathers- and the great challenge facing you is to be ready to face these doors as they open.” Basically, what Dr. King is saying that it’s important that we are ready to face the doors as they open to us. For example, say you want to be a singer, but you don’t practice. Then, a record producer is in the area looking for talent. You wouldn’t be prepared because you don’t practice. Therefore, when you go to auditions, you don’t perform well. A door was opened right there, but you ruined it for yourself because you weren’t ready for the opportunity. Dr. King also states, “I would urge you to study hard, to burn the midnight oil.” Essentially, if you don’t study, or “burn the midnight oil,” you won’t succeed at your goals. If you know what you want to do, and you push yourself toward that goal, you will be prepared to face whatever is through that open door.

Dr. King speaks a great deal about what you should do with your blueprint, but why is the blueprint important? The answer is simple: many young people want to grow up to be many things. However, if they don’t plan out everything they need to do, they most likely will have their dreams crushed. At this age, you must think - what do I want to be and how will I become that? You can’t become something great without a plan. That is the purpose of Dr. King’s “blueprint.”

At this time in my life, I am beginning to create my own blueprint. When I’m finished with middle school, I’m planning to move to New York. I wish to attend John Dewey High School and graduate with honors. Afterwards, I intend to go to college to study to be a pediatrician. If Dr. King were alive today and heard of my blueprint, I believe he would be proud. He would be happy to know I took his advice to have a strong blueprint for my future.

Vernon Thompson – 3rd Place
Union Avenue Middle School
Grade 8

“Blueprint” is an amazing word! A blueprint can be for something as small as a condo to a mansion as large as the white house. But, what would be my blueprint? Martin Luther King refers to it as a plan necessary to "build the structure of our lives." Well if that is true then I am trying to build a kingdom and at this point I run my life as such.

However, before I can get to build my kingdom I must start with the small things. Martin Luther King, in a speech to a group of students in Barratt Junior High, had said, "Number one in your life's blueprint should be a deep belief in your own dignity, your own worth and your own somebodies. Do not allow anybody to make you feel as if you're nobody." By him saying this, I believe he is trying to convey that I am the only person with any “say” in what I am worth. I am the architect of the blueprint to my life. Those who have no current interest in my life or criticize my life in a way to put me down are the same people who will not be able to enjoy my success with me. Rather they will sit and dwell in all the time they wasted judging my blueprint while their course in life was not even thought of. There is no reason for you to make space for negative people in my life. Only then will doors truly open which will lead to success.

The great Dr. King had mentioned such things in his speech. His words were, "And I say to you, my young friends, doors are opening to you - doors of opportunities that were not open to your mothers and fathers - and the great challenge facing you is to be ready to face these doors as they open." When Dr. King speaks of doors opening, he speaks of doors leading to your prosperity and doors leading to the achievement of goals. But these doors do not open by themselves. They are not like the automatic doors that open as I am in front of them. These doors are doors, which I will have to get to a point in my life and to achieve certain goals for them to open. Furthermore, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. also said I must be ready for these doors as they open. In some cases these doors to success will not open until I give up that which is holding me back, whether it be my own insecurities or people or situations in life that are taking me nowhere in life.

"If a man can write a better book or preach a better sermon or make a better mousetrap than his neighbor, even if he builds his house in the woods, the world will make a beaten path to his door." were the words of the great essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson. If I am looking for success in all the right places in all the right ways, such actions will not go unnoticed. Those who strive not just to be seen but also rather to shine will get noticed over those who are just average. Those looking hard for success will most likely have success looking just as hard for them.

Having a solid blueprint for my life can take me any and everywhere. I have to know what I want to accomplish on this planet. I was not put on this earth in order to wander aimlessly through life. It doesn't even compute to me how one can allow themselves to just drift through life. How should one be expected to not want to go

against the crowd? I don't want to be associated with a life of simplicity. Dr. King clearly had a blueprint for a revolution. A revolution is what he worked in his life for, and this is what he got. I want an existence such as he! I am not saying I will do anything as great as Dr. King, but I have a blueprint that will definitely leave a mark somewhere in history.

In essence, as I had said, my blueprint is for that of a kingdom. My blueprint will not be satisfied with a simple or rather average existence. My blueprint will not settle for silver when it can have gold. Why should I have to settle for that which is considered "mediocre?" A life of one who is exceptional has such a stronger meaning. I will work towards every door leading to my prosperity and be ready to open it. I must strive to do better so that the world will sense such a strong determination in my soul that Mother Nature herself will make my path to success. Those who stay by my side through this will one day enjoy my kingdom with me. In my opinion, this is what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would have wanted and had implied in his speech. I will not disappoint him!!!

Schneidine Jean-Baptiste -1st Place
Irvington High School
Grade 9

Education and character these were the two factors that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. believed all men and women should have, not only to be successful in life, but also to make important life choices. Dr. King felt as though if you wanted to fight for what you believed in then you could only have the ability to reason but you also needed morality. I agree with Dr. King's view on education. Human beings listen to things such as twisted truths and choose to believe them, this made Martin Luther King Jr. begin to question if education was fulfilling its true purpose. The true purpose of education is to give people the ability to think not just logically, but also critically.

To begin, in the passage Dr. King stated that, "The most dangerous man can be gifted with reason, but with no morals." What Dr. King meant by that is you may be able to think but you do not know right or wrong. An example of someone who had the ability to think but did not know the difference between right and wrong was the late Eugene Talmadge. Eugene Talmadge was an extremely intelligent man who Dr. King stated had the ability to think critically and intensively, but he lacked an important factor that all men and women should possess, morality. Why did Eugene Talmadge lack morality? It was because he thought that Martin Luther King Jr. was an inferior being due to his race, because of Talmadge's view on people of color Dr. King questioned are those the type of men we call educated? Eugene Talmadge may have been able to reason but obviously his morals were not in the right place. Of course education is very important for all human beings to have, Dr. King made this very clear in his article. Some people are not taken seriously due to their lack of education. For example, Rachel Jeantel's (the girlfriend of murder victim Trayvon Martin) testimony on her boyfriend's murder was not taken seriously due to her lack of literacy. If Rachel Jeantel were more articulate perhaps the Trayvon Martin case would have had a different outcome. This is why reasoning is very important. In my opinion, George Zimmerman is a man who had proper education but did not have the proper principles. Some people have either one or the other but in order to achieve your goals need both.

At the present time there are still people who need to learn more about morality. An example of a man who lacks principals is ex-officer Darren Wilson. Darren Wilson is a man who is responsible for the shooting of unarmed African- American teenager by the name of Mike Brown. The controversy on this topic is whether or not this was a racial issue. I think if Dr. King were alive today then he would have believed that this was an issue of race. There was a disturbing lack of humanity in Darren Wilson's actions. In the article is says, "The broad education will, therefore, transmit to one not only the accumulated knowledge of the race but also the accumulated experience of social living." I think that this means that to be properly educated, you must also know how to live in the real world. Dr. King understood that to live an appropriate life then you must treat others the way you want to be treated. Sadly, this is still something that needs to be discussed and talked about with others.

Furthermore, Dr. King also knew that with correct education then you would be able to separate right from wrong, and you would know the difference between lies and truths. Dr. King said, "A great majority of so-called educated people do not think logically or scientifically." People today allow themselves to believe everything they hear, what they do not know it that everything is not what it seems. You must be perceptive. People who are educated properly are keen to their surroundings. Martin Luther king Jr. felt as though observation was key.

In conclusion, Dr. Martin Luther king Jr. knew that humans lacked certain things that were very valuable. In his article he said, "If we are not careful, our colleges will produce a group of close-minded, unscientific, illogical propagandists, consumed with immoral acts. Be careful, "brethren!" "Be careful, teachers!" Dr. King knew what was needed for education. Do you live your life the way he says you should?

Debbie Pierre – 2nd Place
Irvington High School
Grade 9

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. not only fought for equal rights among all people but at one point expressed his view on how neglected teaching methods can affect the true two-fold functions of an education. Dr. King stated that education is supposed to connect to ‘man’ and their society. Education should teach students how the world around them works and how they are supposed to interact within it. In 1947, as a young student attending Morehouse College, Martin published “The Purpose of an Education” in the college’s newspaper. There he argued that the forces that counters education is neglecting to teach students how to think critically and scientifically and the lack of morals enforced in the classroom. But in all, he said that intelligence with character can help deprive those counter effects and achieve the true functions of an education.

Neglecting to teach students how to think critically and scientifically is one of the forces that counter education. “we are prone to let our mental life become invaded by legions of half-truths, prejudices, and propaganda...A great majority of the so-called educated people do not think logically and scientifically. Even the press, the classroom, the platform, and the pulpit in many instances do not give us objective and unbiased truths.” Quoted from MLK Jr. college essay. For example, a mayor in a small town tries to run for president. At a speaking convention he says all the good things he did for the town to convince the audience but would not say a thing about his countless mistakes for credibility. The audience would believe his objectives because they are thinking that all the facts are given to them, but actually their minds are filled with his biased truths. The connection between these situations is that students with no proper deciphering skills would believe anything that anyone would say if the candidate has a high credibility stature without a second thought. Not being taught how to tell the truth from the lie without critical thinking and evidence is one of the key forces against education!

The lack of morals enforced in the classroom is another factor opposing the functions of an education. “The function of an education, therefore is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. But education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society.” For example, Adolf Hitler, a man gifted with reason was able to convince all of Germany that the Jewish community was the result of their downfall in the past wars. Hitler was undoubtedly brilliant. He was able to reduce his jail time from two years to nine months as his own lawyer when he convinced the judge with his quick, fluent reasoning. However the man did not have any remorse over the countless casualties he caused because he had no morals to follow. The connection between the two situations is that people who do not know what to do with their knowledge, most likely use it improperly, since no one may have taught them the differences between right and wrong. That is the reason why behavior is constantly being enforced in the classroom, because there would be no point in teaching students how the world works if they do not know how to properly act within it. This was another key force against education.

Intelligence with character can deprive those counter forces and achieve true education. “We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character- that is the goal of the true education.” For example, a woman working to become a lawyer found a worthy profession to put her full concentration into. That power of focus would eventually drive her to succeed in this field of profession because of her knowledge and that would make her understand what is going on around her in society. The connection between the two acts is that to fully understand education is to pick a goal that can help your social living and help your environment to prosper. This is the main reason how education helps fight these counter forces.

In Dr. King’s news article he wrote that education was a combination of man and society. However these views are shunned because we have neglected to teach students how to critically think and because of the lack of morals enforced in the classroom. Intelligence and character together can overwrite those opposing forces. This was Dr. King’s viewpoints on the purpose of an education.

Cordel Archer -3rd Place
Irvington High School
Grade 9

Dr. King's purpose of education is to let students focus more on their school work and to do the right thing. He does not want students to follow along with the wrong company or to do the wrong things. He also wants students to pass all of their classes, get good grades, and get into a good college, and to ultimately become someone in life.

There are several purposes of education according to Dr. King. He says that the sole purpose of education is to educate all students and give everyone equal opportunity as a means to succeed in life. Through knowledge and skill, all individuals can achieve greatness. In addition, common values such as punctuality, following rules, cooperation, learning to work and get along together, as well as a sense of responsibility are all-important factors of education.

The combination of knowledge and skills, as well as the common values, will help our young students bloom into adults and become responsible and productive citizens. Equal opportunity to all individuals is important in education. It is only fair that everyone, regardless of race and ethnic background, should all have an equal opportunity to succeed in life. Education gives us life skills to be productive people.

Dr. King touted that "education must enable a man/woman to become more efficient, to achieve with increasing facility the legitimate goals of his/her life." This quote means that, every man and woman should work hard to get an education to succeed in life. Education is the success in life so do the right thing in school and make the right choice.

I agree with Dr. King's purpose of education because he would not write an essay if he did not care about our education and life. I also agree with him because he fought hard for our equal rights, so he does not want us to do nonsense with our education.

In conclusion, it is clear to me that education is the critical to success, but as Dr. King says character, good morals, and education are the keys to success in life.

Ezekiel Rodriguez – 1st Place
Irvington High School
Grade 10

The world famous Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was renowned for his role as a major civil rights activist in the U.S during the 1960's. He gave his life, teachings, and inspirational character towards the hope that America, despite the segregation of races and violence during its time, would change for the better into a nation where individuals of different races could live happily together even if they looked differently, spoke differently, ate "exotic" foods, etc... However, it should be noted that Dr. King published "The Purpose of an Education" during his time at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, a seemingly simple topic but if analyzed and read closely can reveal a more complex and even controversial topic during this time period and in future years to come.

Near the very beginning of this paper Dr. King explains to readers the definition and purpose of an "education." He states that "education must enable a man to become more efficient, to achieve with increasing facility the legitimate goals of his life." While this may seem like a very accurate and reasonable statement about education, Dr. King states that there are those such as fellow colleagues who have a "misconception" of the true purpose of education and the way it is perceived such as "half-truths, prejudices, and propaganda."

Dr. King goes even further to say that the "so-called" educated individuals do not think "logically or scientifically" and tend to give biased or non-objective based truths. He states that to ensure logical and non-biased thinking "education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction." It is obvious to see that Dr. King supports the fact that we should think critically and take the views of opposing theories or ideas and combine to further the success and character of the world and its people. We must not only focus on teaching education but also reveal the positives and negatives of certain aspects so that we will be able to determine what's right and wrong in our society. "The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason, but with no morals."

Thirdly, King speaks of a man who he feels "possessed one of the better minds of Georgia, or even America." However, the "better minds" characteristic contradicts with Dr. King's next statement in which he states that this "better mind" known as Eugene Talmadge, considered King as an "inferior being". He goes on to rhetorically ask if Talmadge is a type of man that we should consider educated. Dr. King also remarks that true education should not only give us power to concentrate, but also for us to focus and pour all of our sacrifice and concentration into a worthwhile subject that can hold actual benefits to the population as a whole.

In conclusion, I believe that this publication was an attempt to warn us of the impact that “poor” education can have on us. I now see that Dr. King felt that education should be put to use for two reasons: to increase our understanding of the world and its numerous topics and to increase our character and persona into one that will not be easily deterred by the corruption and false views (half-truths) of the world but to enhance our understanding and seek out the full truths of it for ourselves and our future philosophers in the coming generation.

Keyona Thomas – 2nd Place
Irvington High School
Grade 10

What is the true purpose of education? Dr. Martin Luther King Junior stated in ‘The purpose of education’ passage in his college student paper, “We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta GA was a young black man who grew up in the struggles carried on by his race in that chapter of American history. As he pursued his Sociology Degree at the Morehouse College he realized that his peers considered education as a way of gaining intellectual power over the masses. A famous phrase of the Caribbean island, Jamaica, “Educated fool” would be the best description of these narcissistic men. Having education without morals is like an unbalanced scale. These men did not care for the right or wrong or for the effect that their choices would have on their own people. Dr. King sought to expose their intentions and to alert people of the true purpose of education. Some of these men understood the truth about the purpose of education and sought to use it to their own advantage as well as to help others as stated by Dr. King, “Still others think that education should furnish them with noble ends rather than means to an end”. Dr. King seemed to have had respect for such comprehension of education but needed the true purpose to be known.

Even in today’s society there are still ‘educated fools’ and they are the most powerful and overall respected individuals. Dr. King dreamed of a society where everyone was educated the right way. Where people would not judge wrongfully, where people would have morals and use their abilities in order to better their home, their country and the world. He stated, “I have a dream”, a famous quote that many before stated but not in the way that would change the world but their own fantasies. Dr. King dreamed of a day that the powerful would go to a poor man’s home and invite him out for a drink and discuss the possibility of a better future. A powerful man sees powerful men every day and gains their opinions on society but what of a poor man’s view of the world. A place where everyone is equal, no one tries to use their education and power to show the “little man” where he stands and what he can and cannot do, a place where the educated people try to influence the other man to seek knowledge and understanding. That’s how Dr. King views the perfectly educated world of his dreams.

Dr. King, a Baptist and civil-rights activist was an easy going man who liked to make friends with good people. He led many marches to protest against the injustice displayed by America’s leaders of his time. Also with him in a few of his marches, white men and women walked with him to protest against the injustice. Even though they were in danger of being prosecuted, they still stood up for equality of the races. This action was deeply admired by Dr. King and it gave him that psychological push to reach success. Some of these men and women were not educated as some of the country’s

leaders but they still had morals and character that made them seem to have more knowledge and understanding of how the world should be.

After the creation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Dr. King received the Nobel Prize in 1964, among several other honors. He couldn't have reached where he had if it was not for a lot of sweat, blood and tears and going to jail. Even through all of that he did not give up. His dream was equality, even though he did not live long enough to see his dream come true; all that mattered to him was that he helped in making a difference. He fought long and hard and even died during battle, but in the end he was victorious. Dr. King died on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee due to an assassination in order to stop his fight for equality and his fight for every race to receive and understand true education. His dream was made a reality and the world will forever remember Dr. King's struggle for the protection and equality of the masses.

Jerry Pierre - 3rd Place
Irvington High School
Grade 10

Dr. King believed in many things; starting with the truth that all men are equal. He believed that we all are created in God's image. He believed a man should be judged by his character instead of his color. He also believed that education is important and must enable a man to become more efficient, and to achieve with increasing facility the legitimate goals of his life. He believed that most people's theory of education was amiss.

Dr. King believed that the true function of education was to enable one to sift and weigh evidence in order to discern the true from the false, the real from unreal, and the fact from fiction. These days it does not take much for information to get to the masses and spread like a disease. Not everything is as real as it seen, there are scams and con artists, and beliefs that can cloud and deteriorate the mind. What education is supposed to do is "ying the yang" of misperception. Education is intended to supply the mind the tool to judge and decide with square sentiment and impartiality.

The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason but lacking in moral. Education without direction is a grievous mistake; it is a brain armed with faulty mentality and no sense of honesty or values. These criminal are the misguided and corrupted aftermath of education not being properly practiced and articulated, making the experience of social living tainted with false significance and no meaning. These people are like everyone trying to find a purpose, but along the way losing their sanity while on a highway with a faulty engine. Erroneously led adrift in an ill-advised direction.

Education can be expressed in many similar ways or in a language with a common root but told differently. Dr. King spoke his language about how education is not practiced and told appropriately. Where intelligence was not enough but had to partner with character in order to fulfill the definition of an educated man. Where the other languages had similar structure but was built under biased untruths by closed-minded and propagandist's consumers.

Keia Smith – 1st Place
Irvington High School
Grade 11

What is the worth of your education? Exceeding the sum of the tuition fee ever paid in your lifetime, your education is worth what you are worth. It is undoubtedly the ultimate key to success which surpasses color, creed or religion. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, a great American humanitarian, "Education must enable one to be efficient." Dr. King's philosophy is deemed to be one of the most powerful on this topic, and questions how some view, value and verbalize their opportunity of having an education. Through his essay, "The Purpose of Education," written in 1947, we are able to examine his perspective on the functions of education, the forces which oppose it and methods of negating these forces in order to be 'well educated'. We are reminded that if we are not careful, we could be at risk of becoming "close minded" individuals who may be unprepared for the world.

According to Dr. King, education has solely two functions, "utility" and "culture." The "utility" aspect is associated with education enabling individuals to gain jobs or careers while the cultural aspect is associated with the amount of morals and values we possess. Dr. King applies a thought provoking statement which says, "The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason but no morals," so as to tell us that utility and morals must go hand in hand. Another major function of education is that it should give individuals the ability "to think intensively and critically." It equips individuals with skills to cooperate, communicate and carry out procedures effectively in the world of work, society and life as a whole. Fundamentally, an education "helps us to discern the real from the unreal and the true from the false" in many situations. It provides one with sufficient deductive reasoning they need to not be deceived.

However, where there is progress, opposition is also likely to be. Dr. King comments that the river of education is likely to become stagnant if we engage ourselves in "half-truths, prejudices and propaganda". These forces are misleading and may even come from places such as the 'press', 'platform' and 'pulpit.' They hinder effectiveness and efficiency. These forces may also come from the so called 'educated people,' who, however, are unable to think logically and scientifically. Dr. King gives an example of Eugene Talmadge, a politician, who notes that Dr. King is an "inferior being". Mr. Talmadge was being prejudiced even though he didn't truly know Dr. King. Was he truly an educated individual?

In order to negate the opposing forces, there are several steps we may take. The most pertinent step is to combine intelligence with character. This means that with intelligence, each individual must possess a unique perspective which helps them to stand out. This step is effective because it allows individuals to have a clear understanding of others and enables them to challenge theories, based on their opinion, in order to improve situations in our society. Another step to negate these forces is to concentrate on "worthy objectives". Education evokes within us constructive thoughts which lead to constructive

actions. Finally, we can learn to "discern the real from the unreal" in order to expel these opposing forces completely.

Education may have various purposes but the true purposes are revealed through rounded individuals who are fit for society. One may only reach their goal of being 'well educated' if they concentrate, apply character with intelligence and decipher the true from the false. In this way, individuals would become "more efficient to achieve with increasing facility", the desired goals of their life. It is without a doubt that Dr. Martin Luther King's essay shows us the true functions of education and how we may achieve them, through his perspective.

Shana Lee Collins – 2nd Place
Irvington High School
Grade 11

What if it told you that education had a purpose? Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. shared this same view about education having a purpose. Dr. King believed that education had many functions and with mastering these functions you can accomplish anything. According to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., “We are prone to let our mental life become invaded by legions of half-truths, prejudices, and propaganda.” So in every good there is a bad, likewise in obtaining an education too, there are forces that counter with the true functions of an education.

People are so quick to compare the lives of Mark Zuckerberg, Bill Gates, and Steve Jobs and so on. People usually say these persons are high school dropouts or didn't even finish college, yet they have accomplished so much. Yet, what one fails to realize is that these so called “wealthy people” were attaining an education before reaching a bump in the road. Even though this bump turned out to be fortunate, these people have still acquired education, whether by going back and finishing school or mastering the skills required. As a matter of fact, these people have also acquired the true functions of an education. According to Dr. King, “Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence to discern the true from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction.” If one can acquire these qualities, then are they truly educated. With these crucial utilities, one can take on life's challenges and face them with great confidence.

On the other hand, “The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason but with no morals.”-Raking. Man may think he truly has obtained an education but what is an education without morality and principle? In our society, we are so submissive to the juicy gossip going on around us. We still allow racism and prejudice as if it is a normal thing. And yet, we believe only one half of a story. We are taught what is right from wrong, but do we truly know the difference? Should someone who considers African Americans as animals, be considered as educated? Why does one act like nothing wrong is happening around them? The people who we consider educated because they have good educational qualification show no sign of caring for the low achieving groups of the society. Education is not only about what you learn in a book, but also how one utilizes this acquired knowledge to accomplish great deeds. Therefore, why should we allow these forces to get the best of us? Why not stand up against them?

Now, it is high time for us to combat these negative forces. “We must remember that, intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.”- Dr. King. It is time for us to open our eyes and minds wide and see what is truly going on. It is time for the young brains to “sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction” in order to comprehend and face the genuine root causes that infest our society. We should stop believing in only “half- truths,” because there is always more than what meets our eyes.

Then comes the “propaganda” which is eating away the moral ethics of our communities. It is time that the population, once again, “discern the true from the false.”

Ultimately, Martin Luther King believed that education has functions and with these functions, we could fulfill a purpose. Attaining a well-rounded education is extremely hard and not everyone is able to do it. However, we all have to face obstacles and we shouldn't let them stand in our way. We need an education to understand what the truths are and grow intellectually to face the anti-forces of education. Open your minds heart and eyes it's time to start focusing on what is around us and not isolate ourselves from the truth.

Kamita Singh – 3rd Place
Irvington High School
Grade 11

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stated, in “The Purpose of Education” that education has a “two-fold function to perform in the life of man and in society: the one is utility and the other is culture.” Dr. King believed that there is a true function of having an education. This function is totally understandable. There is a price to pay for everything in today’s society including the world’s most valuable tool...education. To accomplish anything in one’s life, one must plan in advance by creating educational goals. They must obtain their education by preventing obstacles from getting in their way and staying strong in a positive manner to be successful.

According to Dr. King, “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically.” This gives us the knowledge to become more successful in life. Education enables us to become more efficient, and also to achieve our goals. He stated that with the knowledge we obtain from an education we can be trained to become quick, resolute, and effective thinkers. Therefore, it gives us the choice to choose between the right from wrong, “the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction.” For example, he mentioned in “The Purpose of Education” that education should “transmit to one not only the accumulated knowledge of the race, but also the accumulated experience of social living.” This means that we should increase the quantity of information, everyone should know about the different races and social living. Not having much knowledge can prevent anyone from not receiving opportunities that can help with a better education.

Dr. King stated, “...Education should furnish them with noble ends rather than means to an end.” It has come to a world where people have decided that they can put a stop to their knowledge without knowing what is necessary for success. For example, at the beginning of high school, some individuals did not take education seriously. They then chose not to attend college because they did not have a high school diploma, due to the fact that they may have personal difficulties they could not fight through. This is not the only obstacle that is blocking them from getting their education. However, most individuals have misconceptions of the purpose of an education. They choose to be their own obstacle, and stop themselves from getting the benefit of being successful in life and receiving a better future.

Dr. King stated, “Intelligence plus character that is the goal of true education.” This function of education gives people the knowledge to know and think harder, so that they could try to achieve their best at anything. Fighting for an education is worth it. Most individuals find this to be true when searching for a job or going to college. However, when someone is fighting for an education, they must be careful. Based on “The Purpose of Education,” if someone is not careful when fighting, then the society they are living in “will produce a group of close-minded, unscientific, illogical propagandists, consumed with immoral acts.” This will be a result of their future

generation if they have a lack of intelligence and a narrow outlook towards education in society.

Education is the way of inquiring information from the sources around us. It all depends on the person, whether or not they want to become successful. "The Purpose of Education" explains the importance of making educational goals, overcoming obstacles in the way, which something can prevent men from receiving an education and fighting for it, which is worth living for. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. believed that the function of an education is to teach one to think critically and to put more effort in it. According to Oprah Winfrey, "Education is the key to unlocking the world, a passport to freedom." Therefore, one must ask his or herself: "Does everyone have the key to his or her freedom?"

Stephen Arhewoh – 1st Place
Irvington High School
Grade 12

Education has become one of the most valuable possessions, any person could acquire in the 21st century. Education has a variety of functions, but most people tend to use it as a medium of acquiring knowledge. What are the roles and functions of education in our society? This is a question that has been posed to several educators in our world today. Skill development, career development, and personal development were some answers given in regards to the question. In order to further broaden our understanding, Dr. King shares his view on the true functions of education. Unlike other educators, he chose not to limit his view of education to just a way of acquiring knowledge. Dr. Martin Luther King believed the purpose of education was vast, ranging from acquiring knowledge to learning certain virtues important for progression in life. “The Purpose of Education” by Dr. Martin Luther King was a medium for him to express his position on the true usefulness of education.

“It seems to me that education has a twofold function to perform... one is utility and the other is culture.” This quote was taken from Dr. King’s article. Here, Dr. King explains the two principal functions of education. What is utility? Utility is the ability of something to satisfy one’s needs and wants. Take for example, a bottle of water. After the water is consumed, a person’s thirst is satisfied. The person had to drink the water, in-order to satisfy his/her basic need, which is important to avoid dehydration, and other health problems. The person “utilized” the water. According to Dr. King, the same concept goes with education. Education can be utilized in different situations, to help satisfy a person’s needs. Take, for example, a person is faced with a life-determining decision. He “needs” to make a proper decision because of its importance to his life. With the proper utility of education in this situation, Dr. King believes the person would be able to make the right decision. He also mentions culture, as a function of education. A man’s culture is what he believes in, and what shapes his daily activities on his terms. Culture is very important, and viewed with high regards. So, if education can function as culture, it could also be viewed with highly. A person could be able to shape his/her daily activities on the terms of education. With proper utilization of culture, a person has the tendency have been more ethical and moral in thoughts and actions. Moral values are important for a successful society. “Education must enable a man to become more efficient,” states Dr. King. Education promotes efficiency in our daily activities. With efficiency comes prosperity, and with prosperity comes a more successful living environment.

In addition to the functions of education, Dr. King believes there are forces that combat against the proper function of education in our society. In his article, Dr. King states that, “Most of the “brethren” think that education equips them with the proper instruments of exploitation, so they can forever trample over the masses.” Thus, it can be said that, Dr. King believes wrong exploitation of education is one of the numerous forces battling education. People merely want to acquire education in-order to execute superiority on lower class individuals that do not have the opportunity of acquiring education. This leads to inhumane treatments over these minorities. They are able to use the knowledge gained from their education, in their “quest” to trample over the masses. Dr. King also believes that, a force acting against the true purpose of education, is

educated people discriminating against other individuals because of their race, color, social status etc. A section of Dr. King's article states, "Mr. Talmadge could think critically and intensively; yet he contends that I am an inferior being. Are those the type of men we call educated?" Here, Dr. King points out a well acclaimed educated man in America at a certain time period. However, according to Dr. King, even with such fame that precedes Mr. Talmadge, he still thinks of Dr. King as inferior because of his color. Dr. King feels racism is one of the combating forces preventing the proper utilization of education. There are other combating forces, but these are some important ones affecting our society.

"We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character.....that is the goal of true education" states Dr. King. Education should not only be used for acquiring knowledge, but also training well-mannered and cultured people is an important role of education. In addition, education would stop limited thinking. Racism is an example of limited thinking, and with proper utilization of education it could be stopped or reduced. Dr. King added, "The function of education, therefore, is to teach to think intensively and critically." Intensive and critical thinking is important to increase efficiency in one's activities, and also lead to reliability and consistency. Dr. King added, "The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason, but with no morals." Here Dr. King shows the importance of morality. He explains that even with a large amount of knowledge, immorality is dangerous. In-order to prevent immorality, education has to function as a guide to moral and ethical behavior. He adds, "The broad education will, therefore, transmit to one not only accumulated knowledge of the race but also the accumulated experience of social living." In this manner, education can help fight against racism in our society. With proper utilization of education, our society could combat against the forces of racism. Hence, everyone is viewed equally and education performs its function of culture.

In conclusion, education is a very important aspect of living. Education is versatile, and could be propagated in different ways. But, what is important to know is that education is the key to not only knowledge but also to prosperous living, and a safe environment. Everyday people are faced with challenges which require effective and critical thinking. Dr. King tells us that, "Education must also train one for quick, resolute and effective thinking." In-order for a productive society, we should learn to embrace education, and all its vast functions. Functions including character, intensive thinking, critical thinking, and developing intelligence. There are various purposes/functions of education, and with proper utilization, its results are brilliant, productive and symbiotic.

Amelia Francois- 2nd Place
Irvington High School
Grade 12

What does education mean to you? Some want it only to make money and become rich and others want it for its positive influences. In the case of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he believed that education causes someone to be well rounded. This subject, education, came after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. listened to his peers at school and he realized that their views on education were distorted and he wanted to correct that. In his article, published in Morehouse College's newspaper, he explains what he believes true education to be; he explains the forces that are contrary to education, and lastly he explains how education can combat these forces.

Accordingly, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wants others to know what the true purpose of education is. His view of true education is that education is something that should better you as a person and also those around you. As stated by him in his essay, "Education must enable a man to become more efficient, to achieve with increasingly facilitate the legitimate goals of his life. Education must also train for one quick, resolute, and efficient thinking." Education should be able to ready someone for the outside world, make it easier for them to survive and not fall easily in others traps. Education readies a person so that when a challenge displays itself, it can easily be faced. The goals that are set can easily be accomplished when education is on someone's side. The steps that are to be taken to achieve these goals set are easier to take when the knowledge of what you are doing and how it is to be done is known. Education also, gives a person a better hope in thinking for him/herself.

However, there are obstacles that counter education. The first force, he names is when he listens to his peers, "Most of the "brethren" think that education should equip them with the proper instruments of exploitation so that they can forever trample over the masses. Still others think that education should furnish them with the noble ends rather than means to an end." In this quote, he explains how his peers thought that education was good for nothing else but making them rich and famous. All they wanted was the fame, and power, and money that come along with it. The second force is, "We are prone to let our mental life become invaded by legions of half-truths, prejudices, and propaganda." Without education, one cannot think for him/herself and then they become easily deceived by whatever others say. They cannot see for themselves, instead relying on every word of someone else. The third force, he states, "But education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society. The dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason, but with no moral." According to this, intelligence without morals is not something that society wants. It causes more harm than good. An example would be Eugene Talmadge, who according to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had intelligence but had no morals. He had no morals and so he thought that people like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was beneath him.

Therefore, along with naming forces that counter education, he names ways education can match these forces. To counter the “half-truths, prejudice and propaganda,” “To save man from the morass of propaganda, in my opinion, is one of the chief aims of education. Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction.” Education would give someone the intelligence to be able to settle if the information given to them is legitimate information or just something passed around until people believed it to be true. In the case of those who want to be famous is, “It seems to me that education has a two-fold function to perform in the life of man and in society: the one is utility and the other is culture.” Education should not be used to make one rich, but to bring a betterment for everyone. Also, for the force of intelligence with no morals, “Intelligence plus character- that is the goal of true education. The complete education gives one not only power of concentration, but worthy objectives upon which to concentrate.” This quote is saying that teaching should not only be about learning math and English and concentrating on your work and on tests, but when these subjects are being taught they should be applied to real life, something worth being taught and concentrated on.

In the long run, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wanted to show the importance of education and not the misconceptions that are told to people every day. Education is supposed to create a better future for everyone. All the forces that go against education can easily be counter attacked by education. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. warns us and his warning should be heeded. “If we are not careful, our colleges will produce a group of close minded, unscientific, illogical propagandists, consumed with immoral acts.”

Breman Bookhart – 3rd Place
Irvington High School
Grade 12

“Knowledge is Power.” This is the quote that our former principal, Mr. Burney Davis III, used to end announcements each day. No doubt many, if not all people in the world would agree with the aforementioned statement. As a result, college and other institutions for higher learning are pushed into the minds of youths from an early age. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., like many others attended college in the pursuit of education. During his time at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. King published the article, “The Purpose of an Education” in the college’s newspaper. Dr. King’s article expresses the need for society to change its mindset regarding the purpose of education of youths.

In addition, Dr. King gives insight into the thought patterns of his associates. King’s associates felt, “education should equip them with the proper instruments of exploitation so that they can forever trample over the masses.” What sort of education did these young men desire? Instead of truly bettering themselves, the youth around King simply wanted to gain an edge over their colleagues. One may question where that sort of thinking may have originated. The answer is not far off. In the world we live in, it is very clear that those who possess more power, control their own destinies. During World War II, the German empire was a formidable force. Their power was unmatched in the western part of the world. Thus, Germany began a regime of violence and oppression. As a result, Germany exercised an iron fist over the weaker nations and people. There is no doubt that Dr. King’s peers wanted a similar kind of power.

Furthermore, Dr. King elaborates on what he believes to be an opponent of true education. Dr. King claimed, “To save man from the morass of propaganda, in my opinion, is one of the chief aims of education.” Propaganda, according to Dr. King is a danger of true education. Propaganda is information that is misleading and designed to sway public opinion to believe one thing over another. Dr. King viewed propaganda as a powerful force against education. Sadly, this proves true even now. Young people are encouraged to pursue money, fame, music, immorality, and many other materialistic ideals instead of knowledge. From reality television shows to the unfathomable amount of sports icons, young adults are attacked by materialism. However, Dr. King expresses what he believes to be a solution to this issue. “Education”, according to Dr. King has the ability to tear away worthless ideals from the eyes and minds of people. Thus, the question now becomes: What sort of education can provide this shielding from detrimental propaganda?

Moreover, Dr. King provides the answer to the aforementioned question. “We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.” Is that not crystal clear? Dr. King believed intelligence and morality together formed true education. Such wisdom can easily be proven factual. Adolf Hitler was unquestionably an intelligent man. He plotted out each step of his global domination plan bit by bit. His rise to power over the Nazi regime also took serious

planning. However, many would be reluctant to believe that Hitler displayed great moral sensibility. Thus, Hitler lacked true education. Dr. King stressed the need for all to seek great knowledge as well as great character. A person who wants to perform righteous acts will no doubt have, “worthy objectives upon which to concentrate.”

Clearly, Dr. King desired all to aspire to gain true education. He did not want people to continue to be blinded by the distractions presented by this materialistic world. Rather, Dr. King envisioned a society in which all people would achieve true education. True education is designed to create intelligent and morally upright individuals in our society. Dr. King desired this sort of society for all to benefit from. “Knowledge is Power,” but what we do with that power is what will determine that we have a “true education”.