

Third Place
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The United States is made up of a wide variety of cultures and customs. One downfall of this wide variety is that most tend to stick with people who are like them in gender, race, religion and other things they have in common. If you walk in any high school today and just look around you can see how each race has a little click. There are steps that need to be taken to bring people of different backgrounds together to clinch the diversity that is at hand, especially us young people because we are the future. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy lives on through those that fight and follow his dream. Putting forth the effort to make things more acceptable between different groups is all it takes to make an infinite change by caring, communicating and connecting in the community.

People today, especially the youth of today, need to take pride in where they come from. People like Dr. King worked hard so that we can live the life we do. Instead of letting his legacy fall apart, we should come together as a community to embrace such precious opportunities that we have been afforded. Although we live in a changed world, many people are stuck on the bad deeds of the past. Getting involved in a community and establishing a bond with people around can help to build better communication between race, gender, religion and age. Making a change is not hard at all. It takes a voice and an opinion to create better relations between diverse groups. If everyone would take the time to see how all the hatred in the world is doing nothing but bringing people of the world down. Will this world ever come together or will we be forever separated by stereotypes and the color of our skin?

When Dr. King said, "I have a Dream," he didn't say he had a dream that we would take for granted his hard work and struggle to create equality between different races. He fought to make sure we don't get locked up for walking on the "white" side of the street, or get sprayed with water hoses for taking a stand for what we believe in. No one today has to worry about angry mobs standing outside of the local high school, just because nine black children decided to enroll there. People today have it so good and don't even realize what's in front of them. In Dr. King's time, if you weren't white, you didn't matter, but today everyone matters. We should embrace instead of hate, we should communicate and not discriminate, and we should become one in the community and not kill in the community. Dr. King stood for freedom of all colors: black, white, tan, brown, purple, green, blue whatever color there might be. He fought peacefully for equality. We owe it to Dr. King to honor his hard work by "Caring, Communicating and Connecting in the Community."