

Writing Prompts

Martin Luther King, Jr. in today's world: Focus on the last four lines of Giovanni's poem: "We seek the freedom of free men/ And the construction of a world/ Where Martin Luther King could have lived/ and preached non-violence." Write about whether or not you believe Martin Luther King could live and preach non-violence in today's world. Support your opinions with evidence from what you have learned about the Civil Rights movement, examples of current events, and your understanding of the word "freedom."

Writing as Nikki Giovanni: Imagine that Nikki Giovanni was in Washington in 1963 to hear Dr. King's speech. How would she have reacted to his speech? How would it have made her feel? What would she have written about it? Put yourself in the place of Nikki Giovanni, and write a reflection about the experience of hearing King's speech from her point of view. It can be in the form of a letter, journal entry or poem.

Agents of Change: Write a letter to a politician, modern-day civil rights activist, or a newspaper explaining what needs to change in your community or in America in order for Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream to be realized. Focus on one thing you think should be changed and explain why and how making that change will help your community or our country become more tolerant of differences.