

# **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Essay**

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In the Brookings School District, there is a lot of bullying and teasing. I see this practically every day, and I will sometimes hear very harmful words. Some kids get bullied and teased, because they don't have nice things, or other objects that other kids have, because their family cannot afford them. It makes me feel unwell inside to think about my friends who don't have enough money for specific needs.

In Martin Luther King, Jr.'s I Have a Dream speech, he said, "As long as there is poverty in this world, no man can be totally rich even if he has a billion dollars." What I think he means is that having money does not mean you are rich. People can have little money, but be rich in other things such as caring, kindness, thoughtfulness and love. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wanted everyone to get along. He wanted a world where there was no difference between people, and that we all live in harmony.

One thing we can do at the schools to stop or limit bullying, is to let kids have the freedom they want, but to teach them that if they don't have good manners and say nice things, they won't get the privilege to hang out with their peers. I notice that kids who are rude and disrespectful to their peers and adults get awards, and that's not right. I feel like we need more staff that just deal with bullying and discipline.

I think we need more opportunities in our school to communicate with one another, even when there is a big problem. Martin Luther King, Jr. said that, "People fail to get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other; they don't know each other because they have not communicated with each other. I learned the seven habits of

highly effective people at my old school, and one of those is, *seek first to understand, and then be understood*. I think this means that people need to start understanding each other instead of going straight to conclusions and making assumptions. We need to get to know the other person and what is going on in their life. The solution could be to have places where kids can talk to each other and understand each other. There would be rules in place for the conversation. Students would have to listen without interrupting, and find one positive point that the other person said.

Martin Luther King, Jr. just wanted people to unite and have peace in their lives. He didn't want them to have a dilemma with each other all the time, and he wanted us to have forgiveness. This is the reason why he made these speeches. For us to understand others, and not just understand ourselves.