



Martin Luther King: Beyond the Dream

HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST | WELCOME & OVERVIEW

Welcome, Brilliant Students!

You probably know "I Have a Dream." But how much do you know about Dr. Martin Luther King beyond the speech?

Dr. King challenged segregation, poverty, economic inequality and unjust systems. He helped change the country, faced threats and violence, experienced fear and doubt, and continued asking harder questions about what real equality would require.

Now we want to hear from you.

Read the provided selections from Dr. King. Think about what surprised you, what still feels relevant and what his work means for your generation. Then tell us what **you** think.

You don't have to be a King expert, and you don't have to tell us what you think we want to hear. **Read. Think. Make your case. Use your voice.**

The essay contest is part of Clever Communities in Action's **Martin Luther King: Beyond the Dream** community event on **January 9, 2027**. Youth, adults, families and community members will come together to celebrate Dr. King beyond the familiar quotes and explore his work, courage, impact and unfinished questions.

Student winners will be recognized during the event and invited to share from their work.

Cash prizes are **\$300 for first place, \$200 for second place and \$100 for third place.**

What to do next:

- 1. Read the required excerpts and essay prompt.** The readings are the foundation of your response.
- 2. Review the contest guidelines.** Check the eligibility, length, originality, research and AI requirements.
- 3. Write and submit your essay.** Follow the submission instructions provided with the contest materials.

Documents can be found in this same Google folder.

Submission deadline: **November 20, 2026, or until submission capacity is reached.**

Email admin@clevercommunities.org with questions.

We encourage all students to attend our November information session to get detailed information and have your questions answered. Check Clever Communities in Action on Facebook for the date or email us.