

You Have a Dream...

In his "I Have a Dream" speech, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. includes lines from other texts, like the songs "My Country 'Tis of Thee" and "Free at Last" and the Declaration of Independence. Today, you're going to write an original "I Have a Dream" rap that includes quotes from King's famous speech. First, read the excerpts from King's "I Have a Dream" speech below, and circle 3-5 words or phrases that stand out to you.

I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day, one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today!

This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day, this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning: "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring!"

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true.

And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

Define the words you circled and explain what the phrases you circled mean.

Word or Phrase	Definition or Explanation
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

King also used a lot of figurative language in his "I Have a Dream" speech. Read the examples of figurative language from the speech below, and in your own words, explain what they mean. Look up the meanings of any words that you're not familiar with.

1. Figurative language:

"...a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice."

Meaning: _____

2. Figurative language:

"With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood."

Meaning: _____

Now, think about your own dream for the United States or the world that you'd like to write a rap about.

I have a dream that _____

Identify at least two words or phrases from King's speech that you can include in your rap. These could be the words and phrases that you defined and explained on the previous page, or different ones.

1. Word or Phrase: _____

How it relates to my dream: _____

2. Word or Phrase: _____

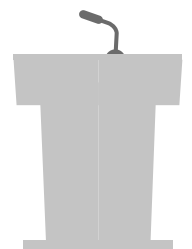
How it relates to my dream: _____

Come up with one line of your own that you can include in your rap. Then, rewrite that line using figurative language.

A line I could include in my rap: _____

The same line rewritten with figurative language: _____

Now, write your rap on the next page. Explain your dream and what needs to be done to achieve it. Include at least two words or phrases from King's speech and at least one example of figurative language.



_____ 's Dream:
