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I Have a Dream

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- One of the largest gaps between American principles and practice has concerned the fate of African-American people since the Civil War.
- The speech offered here was one of the high moments of the mass movement of the 1960s in which African-American people organized to demand what was theirs by right.
- It was delivered in Washington, D.C. on the one hundredth anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation before an estimated audience of a quarter of a million supporters.
- The quality of leadership offered by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with a commitment to nonviolent tactics and to the goals of equality and full participation in national life, inspired very widespread sympathy and respect.

Please click on the links below:

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkihaveadream.htm>

<http://www.usconstitution.net/dream.html>

Thinking and Writing Assignment: 15 points

Complete the notes and analysis assignment given below and post it at the discussion forum called FORUM 26. Complete the critique assignment below and post it as a reply to one of your colleagues' entries at FORUM 26.

Notes

The purpose of this exercise is to ensure that you have understood the reading assignment. Please answer each of the questions below with a clearly written sentence or sentences.

1. Under what circumstances was this speech given?
2. What did King hope to accomplish? How?
3. According to King, what must Americans do in order to be free?

Analysis

The purpose of the exercise below is to give you opportunity to apply the insights gained from the reading assignment through critical analysis. Please answer each of the questions below with a clearly written sentence or sentences. Think carefully, and express yourself with precision.

1. What did King mean when he said that “unearned suffering is redemptive”? Do you agree? Explain.
2. What forms of oppression did King mention? Is his list complete? Explain.
3. What relationship between black militants and white progressives did King advocate?

Critique

1. READ the submissions of your colleagues carefully.
2. THINK about what they are saying.
3. FIND at least one idea you do NOT agree with.
4. WRITE a clear response to that submission, in which you explain politely what you disagree with and why.
5. POST your statement as a REPLY to the submission to which it responds.