

Inspired By MLK: Student Blog Writing Competition

Instructional Support Materials for Students

Speech Analysis — Graphic organizer to use with the MLK, Jr. Speech or for any other speech analysis To access Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 1966 "Chicago Freedom Movement Speech" via the King Archives visit, http://www.thekingcenter.org/archive/document/speech-chicago-freedom-movement-rally	2
Journal Entry: What is Race? — Reaction to the definition of race in <i>Race: Are We So Different?</i>	3
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Blog Outline — Prompts to help students map out their blog and plan their writing	7-8

Name: _____

Speech Analysis

Name of Speech: _____

Orator: _____

Where was this speech given?

Who is in the audience? What was the occasion for the speech?

What is the main idea of the speech?

Why do you think this speech was relevant at the time?

Speeches often include powerful language to stir up the emotions of the listener. Write 1-2 phrases you found most powerful in the speech.

How do/did the phrases above make you feel?

Re-write the phrase in your own words.

What does the orator want listeners/readers to take away from this speech?

Journal Entry: What is Race?

Name: _____

Date: _____

According to the book *Race: Are We So Different?* edited by Alan H. Goodman, Yolanda T. Moses, and Joseph L Jones, *race* is defined as (p.251):

-A recent idea created by Western Europeans following exploration across the world to account for the differences among people and justify colonization, conquest, enslavement, and social hierarchy among humans.

The term is used to refer to groupings of people according to common origin or background and associated with perceived biological markers. Among humans there are no races except the human race. In biology, the term has limited use, usually associated with organisms or populations that are able to interbreed.

Ideas about race are culturally and socially transmitted and form the basis of racism, racial classification and often complex racial ideas.

Reflect on the definition above, what is your reaction to the definition?

How does it make you feel? What questions does it raise for you?

Journal Entry: Race and Daily Life

Name: _____

Date: _____

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Ideas about race are culturally and socially transmitted and form the basis of racism, racial classification and often complex racial ideas.

The authors of the definition argue that race is an idea, created by society, that plays out in our every day lives. How have you experienced this personally? OR How have you seen this play out in the news?

Blog Topic Selection

Name: _____

Date: _____

Blog Prompt:

“We have also come here today to remind Chicago of the fierce urgency of now. . . . This day we must declare our own emancipation proclamation. This day we must commit ourselves to make any sacrifice necessary to change Chicago.”

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Chicago Freedom Movement speech, Soldier Field, July 1966

Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s impassioned speech at Soldier Field and the upcoming exhibition *Race: Are We So Different?*, this competition asks you to reflect on the role of race in our daily lives. The exhibition examines how the idea of race plays a role in forming identity as well as access to quality education, housing, and healthcare, three key components of the Chicago Freedom Movement of the 1960s.

Blogging—which pairs factual information with personal narrative—is a unique writing form from which to appeal for change. **Write a blog post reflecting on a racial justice challenge facing Chicagoland today and why it is important to you.**

Your blog post should include (in no particular order):

- One issue framed in both historical background and present circumstances (choose one of the categories below; italics represent possible topics, but you are not limited to these).
 - Housing (*You might consider: neighborhood gentrification, lack of affordable housing, neighborhood displacement, or unbalanced investment in communities.*)
 - Education (*You might consider: graduation rates, public school closures, budget inequalities, achievement gap/school quality, bilingual education, or de facto segregation.*)
 - Health and Safety (*You might consider: access to healthcare, food deserts, immigration policy, gun violence, or policing and community trust.*)
- An explanation of why you are passionate about your topic and, if applicable, your personal connection to it.
- How Dr. King’s words in the quotation above inspire you to take specific action that will contribute to positive change, small or large, either now or in the future.

Use the following prompts to help you determine a topic for your blog entry.

<p>What is the issue?</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>The category of this issue is (circle one):</p> <p>Housing Education Health and Public Safety</p>
<p>Who does it impact most? Has it impacted you? How?</p>	<p>_____</p>

Topic Selection Continued

What do you already know about this issue?	
What questions do you have about this issue?	
Where can you find out more information? Who could you talk to?	

Why are you interested in this topic?

Blog Outline

Name: _____

Date: _____

Use this page to take notes and to help you as you write your blog.

Think about why your issue is important.

What is the issue? Why is it important to you?

Why is this a relevant issue today? Why should people care?

It is important to set the issue within its historical background and present circumstances. Don't forget to include where these facts are coming from.

What key piece of information do you want your readers to understand?

Historical Background/Facts:

Source:

Historical Background/Facts:

Source:

Present Circumstances/Facts:

Source:

Present Circumstances/Facts:

Source:

Blog Outline

What actions do you propose people take? What outcome do you hope will be achieved?

Action:

Outcome:

Why:

Action:

Outcome:

Why:

Dr. King used the following phrase in his “Chicago Freedom Movement:” Speech: “This day we must declare our own emancipation proclamation. This day we must commit ourselves to make any sacrifice necessary to change Chicago.”

How will you inspire others to bring about change?

Summarize the issue and steps needed to bring about action!

What is the title of your blog? (Now that you know what it is about, it’s easier to write the title!)