

Here, five eighth grade students examined their own lives and political beliefs to create the following speeches.

Inspired by the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the song *Pride (in the Name of Love)* by U2, these writers worked on idea development and word choice skills.

Read the following speeches and discuss the word choice and idea development skills you see. Find places in the final drafts where you agree or disagree with the author. Ask yourself, "If I was writing a similar speech, how would I express what I believe?"

WritingFix thanks these five writers (and their teachers) for sharing these beliefs. We hope your students will be inspired to pick up a pen and share their own, be they completely different or very similar.

Thoughtful writing (and speaking) can change the world.

My Dream for America
by Shelby, eighth grader



I say to you today crime needs to be stopped. Our crime levels are at an all time high. We can't afford to hold as many criminals. We need to find a better way to minimize violence.

I have a dream that drugs will be take off the streets. You won't have to worry about your kids being around drugs. I will feel safer and I know you will too.

I have a dream that life will be easier for all. People are so stressed they can't enjoy life anymore. We all need to slow down and relax.

I have a dream that we won't have to live with the fear of terrorism, where we can live our lives in peace. We can fly in planes without stressing about bombs or weapons.

I have a dream that nobody will have to be worried about money, where we can have a system where you don't have to be worried if you can afford a payment or a bill. You work for the money, but you can rest assure you always have money in the bank.

I have a dream.

I have a dream that everyone will be healthy. There are so many sicknesses out there. I want there to be a cure for everything. I want a 100% survival rate from illnesses.

I have a dream.

I have a dream that we will live in peace, that there will be no more war. I want everyone to be happy. To live without worries. To live side by side, hand in hand.

I have a dream today.

This is my dream.

I Have a Dream
by John, eighth grader



I say to you today, to the people of Michigan, to the people of the United States, to the people of the world, that we must put aside our differences and join together to extinguish the evil radical terrorists from this planet to ensure foreign and domestic tranquility.

I have a dream that one day that the bustling country of China and the rural nation of Bangladesh and the small nation of Israel and the strong nation of America and every other country of this world will rise up and stomp out this evil that threatens everyone's existence.

I have a dream that one day I can board a plane without a thought of a hijacking.

I have a dream that one day those responsible for flying those planes on September 11th, those same people who struck a knife into the heart of all free people everywhere, are brought to justice or justice is brought to them.

I have a dream that one day our brave men and women will not have to pay the ultimate sacrifice for freedom, and they go home to a loving family and thankful country while freedom rings.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day my children can visit North Korea and Cuba and Afghanistan and Iraq and Israel and every other country in the world without fear of a car side bomb, or biological weapons, or even a masked gunman shooting them down.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day the evil of this world will be shutdown and peace will prosper.

I have a dream today.

This is our dream, a dream that every man women and child will turn this hellhole of a planet upside down and take control of our lives, our world, and our dreams.

I Have A Dream
by Connor, eighth grader

I say to you today, my friends, that I hope we can pass today's difficulties, without violence and selfishness. I say to you that I hope we can achieve liberty and equality for people across the world.



I have a dream that I will be able to help all of you achieve equality, even if it is only a small amount.

I have a dream that I won't be a leader of a huge movement, but one of the workers keeping it moving.

I have a dream that families won't have to worry about putting food on the table or whether they can pay the bills at the end of the week.

I have a dream that mothers and fathers can send their kids to school without having to worry if they will return home.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that our nation will be a leader for peace and can help other nations bring equality to their people.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that our nation will reduce crime to a point that our citizens won't have to worry about leaving their cars unlocked or walking down a dark street at night.

I have a dream today.

This is my dream for me, for our families, and our nation. By uniting together, I believe we can achieve these things, and much more. God bless you.

My Dream for America
by Chase, eighth grader

I say to you today that each and every one of us must come together, right now, for the good of this nation. For too long, we have been divided among each other. This hatred and ignorance must come to an end.



I have a dream that one day countries of all ethnicities will learn to get along with each other.

I have a dream that one day politicians of the Democratic Party and of the Republican Party will get along and one day form one divine political party.

I have a dream that soon, in our time, this economic recession will disappear from our lives as if it never happened.

I have a dream that one day my dad will soon be reemployed with a well paying job, so he will be off unemployment for good.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day war will end. Then maybe we, as a world, will be able to move forward together.

I have a dream.

I have a dream that one day hunger will come to an end. But only we, as a nation, can help make this possible.

I have a dream today.

This is my dream, my one true vision. This is my hope that we can all come together as one. I speak before you today, to try to better us all. To help try to better our judgment as a nation, as a people, and as a world. Let these words sit upon you and let them in to inspire you.

I Have a Dream
by McKenna, eighth grader

I say to you today that our nation should be a safe place for every human to be in and that there will not be any hate crimes due to religion, race, or gender. I believe that upcoming generations should have a secure future. Everyone should be able to have a good life; their rights should not be limited because they were born in a different country.



I have a dream that one day abortion will be illegal and that the process of adoption will be a much easier process for the adoptive parents. That one day the number of orphaned and unwanted children will decrease.

I have a dream that, in the future, people will be able to express their homeland's culture in America without being discriminated against. That people will be able to wear turbans to represent their culture without being made fun of, that they could express their heritage without being talked about behind their backs.

I have a dream that my family will be successful and that they will be able to fulfill their hopes. I dream that future generations of my family will also be able to live their life to the fullest extent.

I have a dream that children in soon to come generations, in my country and from my family will be able to walk home from school and walk around town without fear of being kidnapped. I dream that my country will be a safe place to live in.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that I will be able to get a scholarship to college. I dream that if I don't get a scholarship, my family will find a way to get the money for me to go to college.

I have a dream.

I have a dream that there will not be any social cliques. That everyone, no matter what kind of clothes they wear or what they look like can talk to each other and not be whispered about or called names.

I have a dream today.

This is my hope for the future. That America will be a safe place for everyone. That everyone, from senior citizens to children, and from families to babies not even born yet, will have their rights secured for them. That everyone should have a chance at life and that life cannot be taken away before even being born into this world.