

MLK Day Choose-A-Quote Discussion (Life Skills, College and Career)

Grade Range: 7-8 **Time:** 40 Minutes

Synopsis: Students are given a sheet of famous MLK Jr. quotes to contemplate, discuss, and relate to.

Materials:

- 25-30 copies of the MLK Jr. Quotes (attached)
- Paper
- Writing Utensil

Instructions:

1. Have students break up into groups of 4 with one adopter per group
2. Give each student a copy of the MLK Jr. Quotes
3. Have students take a few minutes to read through the quotes and choose one that they relate to write down
4. Give students about 5-10 minutes to write down how they relate to the quote they chose/what it means to them
5. Spend remaining time sharing amongst the small groups what the quote means to them.

Talking Points: Why do these quotes resonate with you so much? How can MLK Jr.'s words relate our world today? Are they still relevant/powerful?

Famous MLK Jr. Quotes

“If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, if you can’t walk then crawl, but whatever you do keep moving forward.”

“Only in the darkness can you see the stars.”

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

“Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education.”

“Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude.”

“A man who won’t die for something is not fit to live.”

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.”

“I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.”

“The quality, not the longevity of one’s life is what is important.”

“Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.”

“We must use time creatively.”

“Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.”

“Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.”

“Nonviolence means avoiding not only external physical violence but also internal violence of spirit. You not only refuse to shoot a man, but you refuse to hate him.”

“A riot is the language of the unheard.”

“We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.”

“A lie cannot live.”

“Whenever men and women straighten their backs up they are going somewhere, because a man can't ride your back unless it is bent.”

“Courage faces fear and thereby masters it.”

“If we do an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, we will be a blind and toothless nation.”

“No person has the right to rain on your dreams.”

“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.”

“Free at last, Free at last, thank god almighty we are free at last.”