

Name: Marie Witzar Elize

Subject: Profile Essay

Instructor: Dr. Rochelle L. Harris Cox

Class: English 1102 W01

Date: 11/15/2024

The Profile Essay

Scene 1: Discovering Martin Luther King Jr. in Middle School

In seventh grade, I first learned about Martin Luther King Jr. It was a Monday, right after lunch, and my history teacher, Mr. Tobia, was getting ready to introduce us to a new project.

Ericka: “Marie, who are you picking?”

Marie: “I’m picking Martin Luther King Jr. I feel like there’s something special about his story, and I want to understand what he did.”

Ericka: “I picked Rosa Parks. I want to know what made her stand up to everyone by refusing to sit at the back of the bus.”

We both started our research, diving into the stories of these amazing people. I quickly wrote a paragraph on why I chose Dr. King, saying that he stood up for justice during the Civil Rights Movement, even though he faced many challenges. His commitment to nonviolence and his speeches were inspiring to me. I learned how his leadership meant sticking to his principles even when times were tough.

Scene 2: Learning about Martin Luther King Jr. in High School

In 10th grade, we had another project on Martin Luther King Jr., this time just before Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Our teacher, Mr. Leon, had us work on posters.

Mr. Leon: “Since Martin Luther King Jr. Day is coming up, you’ll each create a poster about him. Find a picture, explain what he’s doing in it, and talk about his purpose.”

He added that the top three posters would be displayed in the hallway, and those students would get extra credit.

This time, I worked alone since I didn’t know many people in my class. I looked through photos of Dr. King, and I found one where he was speaking to a crowd with a determined look on his face. His hand was raised, and he seemed to be calling everyone to join him. I wrote about the power in his speeches, how he used simple words like “dream” and “freedom” that everyone could connect with, no matter their background.

In my poster, I explained that his speeches were powerful symbols. Every word and gesture had meaning. King wasn’t just talking; he was inviting people to join a movement for justice. His words reached into people’s hearts, encouraging them to believe in a better world.

Scene 3: Researching a Photograph for My Current Project

For my latest project, I was determined to find the perfect photograph of Martin Luther King Jr. that captured his essence and historical impact. I spent hours in my office, looking through different museum websites and archives, trying to find an image that felt right. I remember scrolling through hundreds of options until I finally found one on the Chicago Museum’s website.

Marie (thinking): “Yes! This is the one I’ll use for my project.”

The photograph showed Dr. King at a pivotal moment in American history, probably sometime in the 1960s. In it, he stood before a large crowd, a microphone in front of him, delivering a

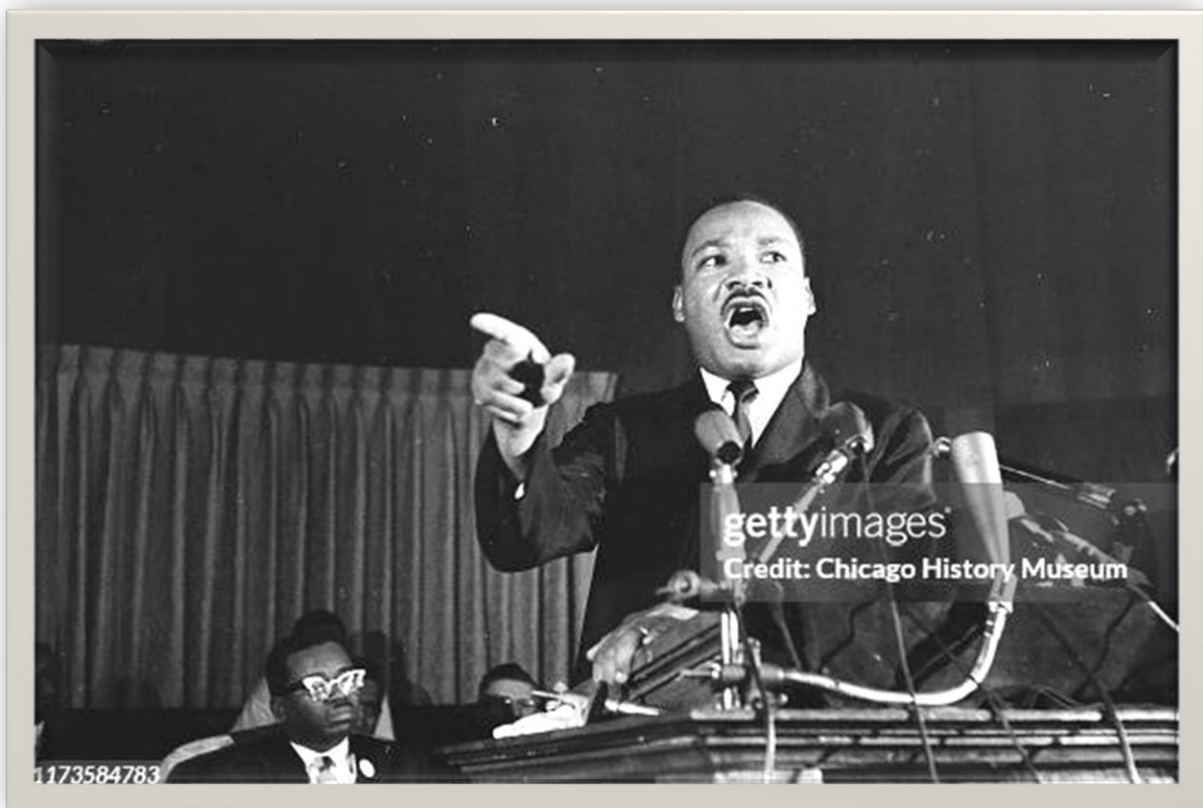
message with strength and conviction. I could almost hear the words he might have been speaking, words of hope and equality, words that symbolized the struggle and resilience of the civil rights movement.

As I looked at the image closely, I noted how his facial expression and hand gestures captured the emotion of his message. His gaze was steady, his hand raised, commanding attention. The black-and-white tones of the photo added to its timeless quality, emphasizing the gravity of the moment. This wasn't just a man giving a speech; it was a leader urging his nation to strive for justice, embodying the hope and determination of a movement that would change history.

In my analysis, I explored how King's presence in that photo symbolized more than words could express. His use of religious and moral arguments appealed to the conscience of America, urging not just legal change but a shift in the nation's soul. This was Dr. King's power his ability to inspire moral reflection and call people to action without ever lifting a fist in anger.

This is a photo of Martin Luther King Jr. at an essential moment in American history—probably from the 1960s when appearances were joint during widespread racial segregation, institutionalized injustice, and black people's fight for civil rights. This photo represents King in his role as the moral leader of the nonviolent protest and civil rights movement of this era. This photo is more than a man speaking; it represents the struggle for equality and civil rights in the United States. Martin Luther King Jr. symbolized the national and international face of nonviolent protest for which his 1963 March on Washington became the centerpiece of his "I Have a Dream" speech kept in mind. His efforts resulted in the landmark Civil Rights Act of movement. The photograph shows him in a position of the decisive moment; the gesture of his hand and his facial expressions determine he is passing a message with convictions; the expressions also show he is giving a powerful speech advocating civil rights. The message

conveyed in this photograph is that he was the leader of the Civil Rights Movement, fighting for racial equality, justice, and nonviolent resilience. His postures and expressions based on the photograph clearly show he calls everyone's attention to action and change and fights for equality. The picture also shows power tied to his legacy and the civil rights movement. His facial expression and hand gestures suggest determination and passion. As you can tell, with the microphone in front of him, he gave the speech to a large audience. He appeared to be in the middle of delivering a solid message, his eyes focused and mouth open as he spoke with conviction. The black-and-white quality of the images adds to its historical significance, giving it a timeless feel as if freezing an iconic moment in the fight for civil rights.



For his part, Martin Luther King Jr. battled for social justice and equality armed primarily with a sequence of tactics that, if dehumanizing opposition is dealing in diplomacy of logics, were the

norm-breakers that worked best against the racist edifice of his era. Nonviolent Resistance was the method employed by King. The technique, which is motivated by Gandhi beliefs. This involves protesting unfair laws and racial discrimination in a civil way. With this strategy, the people as well as the government were forced to see the strength of the movement in its morality and the darkness of the adversary in its cruelty. King played a role in organizing and leading many of the major marches and demonstrations, often very focused on a specific injustice. King and his aides realized that the media can help broadcast their message. They staged events in such a manner to ensure it would receive media coverage, which made segregationist violence be seen. King's strategies effectively challenged the deeply difficult systems of racial discrimination and segregation of his time. By connecting moral authority, strategic partnerships, nonviolent resistance, and media attention, he organized widespread support and pressured lawmakers to make meaningful changes. His impact is seen in the continuing protections for civil rights in U.S. law and the ongoing influence of his ideals in social justice movements today.

This is a photo of Martin Luther King Jr. at an essential moment in American history—probably from the 1960s when appearances were joint during widespread racial segregation, institutionalized injustice, and black people's fight for civil rights. This photo represents King in his role as the moral leader of the nonviolent protest and civil rights movement of this era. This photo is more than a man speaking; it represents the struggle for equality and civil rights in the United States. Martin Luther King Jr. symbolized the national and international face of nonviolent protest for which his 1963 March on Washington became the centerpiece of his "I Have a Dream" speech kept in mind. His efforts resulted in the landmark Civil Rights Act of movement. The picture also shows power tied to his legacy and the civil rights movement. His facial expression and hand gestures suggest determination and passion. As you can tell, with the microphone in front of him, he gave the speech to a large audience. He appeared to be in the

middle of delivering a solid message, his eyes focused and mouth open as he spoke with conviction.

Based on the article “**Martin Luther King, Jr.: Ethics, nonviolence, and Moral Character connects to King using nonviolent techniques to fight for equality**” King saw nonviolence not simply as a tactic but as a moral commitment that required the raising of certain character traits, like courage, dignity, and self-respect, which would transform individuals and, eventually, society itself. King’s belief in nonviolence went beyond simply avoiding violence in protest. It was growing in the idea of “suffering love” and a vision of God that highlights justice, compassion, and unity. King viewed the struggle for equality as a divine mission, with God’s creative purpose aiming to establish a just and loving community. His religious commitment led him to see each person in a manner of valuable and worthy of respect. King’s approach to nonviolence was also influenced by his commitment to moral character. He believed that true social change required transformation not only in laws and policies but also in the character of individuals. He argued that nonviolent action was a reflection of an inner character growing in love, courage, and integrity. Therefore, this Article Emphasized that King’s nonviolence was not just a strategic choice but an extension of his moral and religious beliefs. His approach aimed to transform society by promoting moral character, which he saw as essential to achieving true freedom and justice. **Based on my resources Based on the article “nonviolent resistance published in Salem Press Encyclopedia, 2024, Research Starters by Kammer, Charles L.”** shows that nonviolent resistance was a powerful strategy precisely because of its peaceful nature. Kammer explains that nonviolent methods highlight the morality of the protestors while exposing the injustice of the system they challenge, it was a way to morally confront society by making the harsh reality of discrimination visible to everyone. However, Kammer also points out a unique contrast: while nonviolent resistance worked to bring public sympathy and legislative

action in some areas, it didn't always succeed in the same way in regions where economic or social complexities made the fight harder. Kammer's perspective supports that King's nonviolence was an effective method for change but also shows that the outcomes could differ depending on the specific social context. This provides a balanced view of King's approach as both morally driven and adaptable to different challenges.

I do agree with Martin Luther King Jr.'s techniques of nonviolent resistance as a powerful means for achieving social justice and equality. His strategies were deeply vouching on moral principles and reflected a deep understanding of human dignity and community. King's commitment to nonviolence was not just a tactical choice; it was a logical stance that aimed to raise the discourse around civil rights. By emphasizing love and understanding over hate, he aimed to appeal to the conscience of the oppressor, fostering an environment where change could be achieved through compassion rather than conflict.

Work Cited

Large, Ron. *Martin Luther King, Jr.: Ethics, Nonviolence, and Moral Character*. Galileo, <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=b5301a83-143e-3f54-a9be-d463ff42f355>.

Accessed 15 Nov. 2024.

"Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park." *National Park Service*, U.S. Department of the Interior, <https://www.nps.gov/malu/index.htm>. Accessed 15 Nov. 2024.

Martin Luther King, Jr.: Ethics, Nonviolence, and Moral Character. EBSCOhost, <https://research.ebsco.com/c/KNPBI4/viewer/html/v4ubvou33z>. Accessed 15 Nov. 2024.

Getty Images. "Martin Luther King Jr." *Getty Images*, <https://www.gettyimages.com/search/2/image?family=creative&phrase=martin%20luther%20king%20jr>. Accessed 15 Nov. 2024.

