

Motherlode Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 2018 Essay Contest Prompts 6th - 8th
Grade

1. “There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe nor politic nor popular, but he/she must take it because his conscience tells him/her it is right.”

2. “People fail to get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don’t know each other, they don’t know each other because they have not communicated with each other.

Note: (she) (her) are added to Dr. King’s quote.

During the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led many people in peaceful demonstrations. He had people march to be noticed. They carried signs so people would understand that they wanted to be free of unfair laws. Dr. King wanted black people to be able to eat in the same restaurants as white people and black children to be able to go to the same school as white children. There were many other unfair laws that Dr. King wanted to change. Dr. King knew that to try to change the laws might be dangerous. He knew that many white citizens would fight to keep the laws the same. He knew that many people would say nothing. He also knew that many people would support the cause. He was also afraid that many black citizens would fight back. But Dr. King did not believe in violence. He wanted to use peaceful ways to change the law.

Choose a Martin Luther King Jr. quote from prompt #1 or #2.

- 1. Identify an issue or a concern that affects you, your friends or family at your school, neighborhood or in Tuolumne County.**
- 2. How did this issue come about? How and why are they affected?**
- 3. How does the issue affect you, your family or friends?**
- 4. What are the possible solutions to the problem?**
- 5. What can you do to be part of the solution?**

Write a 250-500 word essay. Entries are to be mailed to Motherlode Martin Luther King Jr. Committee: PO Box 254, Tuolumne CA 95379 postmarked no later than **February 7, 2018.** (Or send via the school Pony to Merv Cancio at Curtis Creek Elementary)

Prizes:

Grade 8	1 st Place \$100	2 nd Place \$50	3 rd Place\$25
Grade 7	1 st Place \$100	2 nd Place \$50	3 rd Place\$25
Grade 6	1 st Place \$100	2 nd Place \$50	3 rd Place\$25

