

Like A River

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s fight for justice and civil rights took place almost 60 years ago. Since then, generations of people have come and gone, and society has evolved in many ways. The changes that MLK worked to establish are now vulnerable to being left as mere pages in history books, unless the youth steps up to protect the ideals for which MLK fought for.

The march towards racial equality can be compared to a river. Droplets of water come from all around the world, however, once a droplet reaches a river, it charges towards only one destination, the ocean. In a similar sense, if our current generation can come together and utilize the technology and diversity that we have, we can all race towards racial equality like a river charging to the sea.

The youth possess an incredible amount of power. Through social media and the internet, we are able to share our ideas, beliefs with people all around the world. With the help of this technology, we are now able to see more of the world, and we can finally see the similarities that we all share. We are able to come together and celebrate the beauty of humanity, rather than dividing based on skin color or culture.

Each new generation brings new perspectives that can change the way issues are viewed and how we plan to act upon them. What has been key for the development of the current generation is integrability. We are privileged enough to be able to live in a time in which people can assimilate into different cultures while maintaining their own culture. Similar to how a weaver may use different colored strings when crafting his work, America has many different types of people from all around the world. However every string in the weavers work is

necessary to create a beautiful piece; likewise, with diverse perspectives and experiences we can continue to strive for racial equality and develop a beautifully diverse and equal country.

Using these tools, the youth can promote more involvement and awareness regarding racial equality issues. For example, by using social media, it is possible to increase the attendance of a protest from only a few people to hundreds or thousands. The message reaches more people and the support of a movement can greatly increase.

Cultural events that are open to people from all backgrounds will allow us to learn from our diverse and integrated communities, thereby creating a greater understanding and appreciation of people from different backgrounds. Social media can help promote these events and everyone can come together and share their customs and traditions with their neighbors. Through these events everyone can share and better inform the people around them about their heritage. A more understanding and educated community is a healthier community where there is no place for hate, and diversity and appreciation are upheld by all of its members.