

Activity: Remembering Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Delivered February 4, 1968, Dr. King's sermon "The Drum Major Instinct" foreshadowed his assassination by just a few months. In it, he reflected on how he would like to be remembered after he died. It was read again at his funeral and is among his most cited works. Review the text or audio of the speech, available online (www.edugui.de/drummajorinstinct), and then answer the questions posed by his message.

1. Dr. King described the distortion of the Drum Major Instinct, the drive to be seen as better than others, as the source of many ills. How have you seen it hurt people?
2. Dr. King addressed a wide range of social problems that he saw around him, including poverty, elitism, racism and war. Think about your own school and community today. What specific issues do you think are most important to address?
3. Dr. King reflected on his determination to leave a legacy of serving others. How about you? How would you like to be remembered for making a difference in other people's lives? What would you like others to be able to say about how you helped people? Take some time to reflect on and write about this, using the back of the page if needed.
4. What's a specific step you could take today or this week to start living that out?
5. Dr. King was a hard working student who made learning a priority in his own life and called others to do the same. What kind of education and skills would you like to learn so that you can contribute more to people's lives?