

# UNITY IN DIVERSITY: OUR SINGLE GARMENT OF DESTINY

## 2025 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Writing Contest

Winners will be filmed reading their pieces, and the videos will be aired during the Crispus Attucks MLK Breakfast on Monday January 20, 2025.

Each student will receive up to four complimentary tickets to the Breakfast.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a leader in the civil rights movement, once said:

*"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."*

In your essay, explore what this quote means in relation to unity and diversity. Consider how Dr. King's message about the connections between people can be applied today. How do our actions, both big and small, impact others?

As you write your essay, address the following points:

- Explain what Dr. King meant by "a single garment of destiny" and how it relates to the idea that we are all connected.
- Discuss how unity and diversity are important in creating strong communities.
- Provide examples of situations where people from different backgrounds come together and support each other and explain why this is important.
- Reflect on how Dr. King's message can inspire us to make a positive difference in the world today.

Use evidence from your own experiences, what you've learned in school, or events from history to support your ideas.

**Middle School:**  
Entries should be a  
maximum 300 words



**All middle schools are  
invited to submit! Flip to  
the back for the criteria**



### Submission

Deadline for submission is Friday, December 13, 2024. Email all submissions to [marketing@caplanc.org](mailto:marketing@caplanc.org)

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## 2025 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Writing Contest

### Middle School Submissions

All essays will be evaluated based on the following criteria

Criteria	4 - Excellent	3 - Good	2 - Satisfactory	1 - Developing
Understanding of the Quote	Demonstrates a clear and accurate understanding of the quote, explaining its meaning in detail.	Shows a general understanding of the quote, with a mostly clear explanation.	Shows some understanding of the quote, but the explanation is unclear or incomplete.	Demonstrates little or no understanding of the quote. The explanation is very limited or missing.
Connection to Unity and Diversity	Explains how the quote relates to unity and diversity with clear and thoughtful examples.	Explains the connection to unity and diversity with some relevant examples.	Makes a basic connection between the quote and unity/diversity but lacks clear examples.	Struggles to connect the quote to unity or diversity. Examples are absent or unrelated.
Examples and Details	Provides multiple specific examples of how people work together, even when different.	Provides some examples, though they may lack detail or specificity.	Provides limited or general examples that do not fully illustrate the point.	Examples are vague, irrelevant, or missing.
Clarity and Organization	The essay is well-organized and easy to follow, with clear sentences and ideas.	The essay is organized, with some minor issues in flow or clarity.	The essay is somewhat disorganized, making it difficult to follow the ideas.	The essay lacks organization, making the content hard to understand.

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