



Martin Luther King Jr Essay Competition
January 2020

Beloit Memorial School Essay Winner
Annabelle Nowak
12th Grade

If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way.”

To me, this quote means that it doesn't matter how big our contribution is to the cause, as long as you try. This is very encouraging to me as many times even my best efforts don't seem like they are enough to make a difference.

In his life, Dr. King Jr. made great progress in the civil rights movement. He was up in front of everyone, being the headline for the movement at the time, but he knew that nothing would really change unless everyone did their part for their neighbor. It's not just famous people changing that makes a difference. It's everyone changing that makes a difference and we are part of everyone.

Dr. King Jr. tells us here that it doesn't matter if anyone sees you do good things. It doesn't matter if you go viral on social media. It's the intention that matters, doing your work with a good heart.

For example, every dollar donated to help save Australia from the wildfires helps. It's okay if you aren't a billionaire. Every piece of garbage that someone picks up off the beach helps. It's okay if you don't have a team of divers to help you break a world record. Every tree you plant helps. It's okay if you don't plant twenty million all on your own. The only thing that matters is that you tried. You tried to put good out into the world. You tried to help others in need. You tried to do your best. You tried and that is all that anyone can do, really. So try, and be proud of what you do because together, we can change the world.