



Martin Luther King Jr Essay Competition
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Beloit Learning Academy Essay Winner
Britain Meade
12th Grade

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

A great quote from a great man. While I understand and agree with the message, I don't believe he's giving himself enough credit. You can absolutely do great things, but who's to say what you're doing is small? The people who opposed Martin Luther King Junior thought his goals were never going to come to fruition; they considered what he was doing small when in reality, it was huge for our country and our people. He inspired so much hope for equality and made an incredible amount of progress. Because of this, the quote motivates me to look at myself as important and do my best while I can. I feel like I have to do my best because of MLK and the injustice of his death; the thought of how he was robbed of the years and opportunities he had makes me sick.

With this feeling comes a powerful source of motivation and forces me to re-frame my point of view, along with acknowledging that everything I do is important to me and the people around me. I have to use that to do what is right, even if it's considered small to the world. I can use this power and the quote to bring forward the truths he was preaching and do those “small” things in a great way, for myself, for my community, and for Martin Luther King Junior. I will ensure that his legacy is remembered and continues to be learned from because his goal was to educate people and achieve equality. I will share the universal truth that we are all human and we need to build each other up as equals. We are all we have in this world and we can all do something great, no matter how small, with our time here.