

## MLK Activity

Instead of class on Monday January 18<sup>th</sup>, the Martin Luther King Jr. activity I participated in was actually one that I created and coordinated. At one of the places I work, the Center for Academic Service-Learning and Research at APU, there are 9 undergraduate students, 4 graduate students, and 3 full-time staff. The 16 of us gather every Tuesday afternoon for a full staff meeting and at the beginning of each meeting we all participate in “Community Time” which is planned by someone in the office. On Tuesday January 19<sup>th</sup> I created and coordinated a community time related to MLK Jr. I split everyone into pairs and passed out a copy of his “I have a dream” speech. I led us in creating a “found poem” based on that speech. Found poetry is the process of gathering one piece of literature or many pieces of literature from one or many different authors. A person then highlights words and phrases from that piece of literature that stand out to them. When a final list of words and phrases is gathered, the person then rearranges and rewords selected excerpts into a poem that flows and makes some sort of sense. The 16 of us in the office created a master list of words and phrases and then eventually each person got to write one line onto our final draft of the poem. A person read our final poem out loud to everyone and then we all cheered. I told everyone in the office that this was our dream, as an office, for APU. Attached are the master list we came up with and the final draft of our found poem. Lastly, I went home and created my own found poem from the master list. I did a more advanced version of it though and used all of the words and phrases, including repetitions.

MLK Jr. was a leader through his excellent communication skills. His moving literature and speeches have kept his vision alive even after his passing. Many people do not notice the poetic nature of his writings and the power contained within each word, each phrase. His leadership style was one of perseverance and motivation. MLK Jr. motivates people to take

action and to keep moving on, despite adversity. What I have learned from him is that non-violent action can be powerful and successful. From him I have learned that the pen is mightier than the sword.

### **Master List**

Joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity  
Great vaults of opportunity  
Sunlit path of racial justice  
Justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream  
Not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character  
Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!  
Riches of freedom and the security of justice  
Fierce urgency of Now  
High plane of dignity and discipline  
We cannot walk alone  
Table of brotherhood  
Hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope  
Beacon light of hope  
Fierce urgency of Now  
We cannot walk alone  
Always march ahead  
This is our hope  
Table of brotherhood  
I am happy  
Now  
Whirlwinds  
Their destiny is tied up with our destiny  
We cannot walk alone  
Oasis  
Joyous daybreak  
Great vaults of opportunity  
Fierce urgency of Now  
Solid rock of brotherhood  
High plane of dignity and discipline  
We cannot walk alone  
And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream  
Character  
Glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together  
With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope  
With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together  
Freedom and justice

## **Service-Learning's Dream**

On this joyous daybreak,  
Upon the solid rock of brotherhood—  
Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!  
But we cannot walk alone.  
We are a beacon light of hope,  
A sunlit path of racial justice.  
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.  
This is our hope.  
To always march ahead  
Towards freedom and justice.  
And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, we still have a dream  
For riches of freedom and the security of justice  
Justice that rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.  
With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope  
For their destiny is tied up with our destiny.  
I am happy.

## Oasis Now

And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream.  
That with this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope—  
Hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope.

This is our hope:

That with this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together,  
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.  
With great vaults of opportunity  
And the fierce urgency of Now,  
We hope all will not to be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character—  
Character.

Oh beacon light of hope.  
With great vaults of opportunity  
And the fierce urgency of Now,  
We hope for the riches of freedom and the security of justice—  
Freedom and justice—  
Justice that rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream,  
Like whirlwinds.

Solid rock of brotherhood,  
Table of brotherhood,  
High plane of dignity and discipline,  
I am happy.  
Table of brotherhood,  
High plane of dignity and discipline,  
Let us hope for a joyous daybreak—  
A joyous daybreak to end the long night of our captivity,  
A sunlit path of racial justice.

And so,  
Always march ahead  
With the fierce urgency of Now.  
Know that our destinies are tied up.  
We cannot walk alone.  
We cannot walk alone.  
We cannot walk alone.  
We cannot  
Walk  
Alone.  
Thank God Almighty, we are free at last.