



# Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Writing Prompt 2020

## *The Dream 2020: The Future Begins Today*

### Writing Task:

In his Nobel Lecture on December 11, 1964, The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is quoted as saying, “Modern man has brought this whole world to an awe-inspiring threshold of the future” [with] “new and astonishing peaks” [of] “spectacular strides in science and technology . . . . We have learned to fly the air like birds and swim the sea like fish, but we have not learned the simple art of living together as brothers.”\*

Gains in technology and science have only grown since Dr. King’s speech. The question today is whether the use of technology and our instant access to information is helping bring us together toward non-violence and peace, or is it dividing us and pushing us further apart? Use credible information to defend your position on this question.

Write an argumentative essay in which you take a stand on the issue of technology as a unifying or divisive force in nonviolent efforts in the U.S. and around the world, and which responds to the theme, “*The Dream 2020: The Future Begins Today.*”

\* “Nobel Lecture, 12.11.64”: <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1964/king/lecture/>

### Checklist for your writing:

- Refer to the California Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, Writing Standard 1.
- Have a clear purpose and maintain your focus on the topic.
- Use evidence from interviews, printed sources and/or from other appropriate, grade-level sources.
- Use a variety of transitional words, phrases and clauses.
- Use vocabulary that fits your audience and purpose.
- Grades 4-6 need to **provide a list** of sources to give credit for the information; Grades 7-12 should **cite sources** and include a bibliography page.
- Turn your writing in to your classroom teacher who will then register you online and upload your school’s winning essays.

#### **For more information, please contact:**

Tonia Loeffler, [tloeffler@fcoe.org](mailto:tloeffler@fcoe.org), (559) 265-3000  
Pamela McGee, [pmcgee@fcoe.org](mailto:pmcgee@fcoe.org), (559) 265-3077