

Martin Luther King Jr Video Discussion Guide

Focus Action Courage Legacy

Learning aim Students will analyze how the video connects King’s beliefs, actions, risks, and legacy through first-person narration and historical imagery.

Say this

Open: As you watch, notice that the story is told in the first person, as though Martin Luther King Jr. is speaking directly to us. Listen for the moments when a belief becomes an action.

Name the idea: The video presents courage as disciplined action in the presence of fear. King and other activists walk, march, speak, write, and return after violence instead of giving up or retaliating.

Ground in evidence: Track the video’s repeated pattern: a challenge appears, a choice is made, and change follows. Look closely at the bus boycott, the large public speech, the voting-rights march, the jail cell, and the moments of danger and criticism.

Add nuance: The video uses one voice, but the images show a movement made of many people. King’s leadership mattered alongside the courage, sacrifice, and persistence of communities acting together.

Set discussion norms: Refer to a specific line, image, or event from the video. Explain what it suggests rather than only retelling it. Build on or challenge ideas respectfully, especially when discussing fear, justice, and responsibility.

Discussion prompts and sentence stems

1. How does the video show the difference between having a belief and acting on it? Use one line and one image or event.	Sentence stems • One line that shows this is... • The image or event adds... • Together, they suggest...
2. The narrator admits fear, violence, and criticism. How do these moments strengthen the video’s message about courage?	Sentence stems • Courage does not mean... • The moment that best shows this is... • This strengthens the message because...
3. What responsibility does the ending place on viewers when it says the dream is carried forward by all of us?	Sentence stems • The ending asks viewers to... • One action people could take is... • I agree or disagree because...

Teacher listen-fors evidence from narration and imagery; recognition of collective action; courage defined as action despite fear; a specific interpretation of the final call to responsibility.

Martin Luther King Jr Video Reflection

Name _____

Date _____

Use details from the video and discussion. Complete thoughts matter more than long answers.

1 Belief becomes action

Choose one moment when a belief becomes an action. Describe the line, image, or event and explain the connection.

The belief is... The action that shows it is...

2 Courage and fear

How does the video show that courage can exist alongside fear, danger, or criticism? Use a specific moment.

This moment shows courage because...

3 Words and images

Choose one line from the narration. How do the accompanying images deepen or change its meaning?

The line says... The image adds...

4 Carrying the dream forward

The ending says the dream is carried forward by all of us. What responsibility does that give people today?

One responsibility we have is...

Exit reflection

Complete both statements in 2–3 sentences total.

One idea from the video that will stay with me is...

One question I still have, or one action this makes me consider, is...

