

**Artifact:**

**“I Have a Dream,” Martin Luther King,  
Speech at the March on Washington, 1963.**



In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the "unalienable Rights" of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note, insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds."

But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so, we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice. . .

I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today. . .

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado. Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California. But not only that: Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee. Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

**APUSH Framework Classifications**

**Period 8: 1945-1980**

**Key Concept 8.1.I**

**APUSH Theme/s:**

**Politics and Power, American and National Identity**

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# SALLAN

## A primary source practice

One important note: Don't think you have to address all of the elements below. That'd be annoying.

Instead, see SALLAN as a sort of menu:  
Depending on the artifact, some elements will be more relevant than others.

## Source

- +**Context:** What's going on at the time??
  - +**Point of View:** What's relevant re the creator's worldview?
  - +**Purpose:** Why was this source produced?
  - +**Audience:** To whom is the message directed?
- How do these elements impact the artifact's Argument?

## Argument

- +**Main Message:** Argument the creator makes?
- +**Supporting Details:** Specific parts especially relevant to the Main Message?
- +**Underground:** What's going on below the surface? POV, assumptions, tone?

## Links (to Content Knowledge)

- +**Broad CK:** Broad CK you can link to this artifact?
- +**Specific CK:** Specific CK you can link to this artifact?

## Links (to other Artifacts)

- +**Source Corroboration:** Does another artifact corroborate the Main Message of this artifact?
- +**Source Conflict:** Does another artifact conflict with the Main Message of this artifact?

## Analysis?

Explain the historical significance of this artifact by using:

- +1 element from Sourcing.
- +2 other elements of your choice.

## New Question?