

I Have a Dream-Speech Analysis

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Introduction

Considered as one of the greatest speeches ever, Martin Luther King Junior's speech is one that sought to inspire change in the black and white citizens of the United States of America during the Civil Rights era back in the 1960s. This essay seeks to present a speech analysis of "I Have a Dream" speech as given by Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Some of the key things to consider in the analysis are how the speaker gained attention of the audience and the type of clincher that was used. It will also be necessary to examine how the speaker related to the topic or established credibility to the audience. In addition to that, the essay will also assess if there was any thesis statement in the speech, as well as, how well the speaker cited and used supporting material for the points that he discussed. With respect to the speaker's conclusion, there will be a need to establish how well Martin Luther King Jr. summarized the speech and the extent to which his conclusion was creative. There will also be a need to discuss the speaker's use of language, his style of delivery, as well as the overall assessment of the entire "I Have a Dream" speech.

I Have a Dream-Speech Analysis

One of the key areas to examine in the analysis is with regard to the method that Dr Martin Luther King Jr. used to gain the attention of the audience. There are several ways in which the speaker was able to capture the attention of the audience. First and foremost, it is clearly evident that as he gave the "I Have a Dream" speech, Martin Luther King was very passionate and spoke with much confidence that it would be hard not to capture the attention of the audience. In addition to this, Dr Martin Luther King also captured the attention of the audience by making references to the Holy Bible, the United

States Declaration of Independence, and the Gettysburg Address which he constantly alluded to during the delivery of the speech. These, in addition to his unshakeable confidence are among some of the things that made Dr Martin Luther King Jr. capture the attention of the audience. The clincher that used in the speech by Martin Luther is that of “I Have a Dream,” a statement that he used repeatedly during his speech delivery.

With respect to relating the topic or establishing credibility to the audience, Dr Martin Luther King uses biblical codes in his “I Have a Dream” speech and also uses his personal testimony in order to show the audience what was actually happening in the United States of America. However, there is emphasis that even in pursuit of change; the method used to seek change should be a non-violent yet effective method. With respect to the thesis statement, Dr Martin Luther King’s speech used “I Have a Dream” statement repeatedly especially when making a major point. In this case therefore, “I Have a Dream” is the thesis statement for this particular speech.

Given the fact that he cited some supporting materials during his “I Have a Dream” speech, it is necessary to establish if Dr Martin Luther King used the materials well. Some of the key materials used include the Bible, the United States’ Declaration of Independence, and the Gettysburg Address. With reference to the United States’ Declaration of Independence, Martin Luther King successfully used this supporting material to show how the United States of America had a default in its promise since the blacks were not yet free. With reference to the Bible, one of the areas that Martin Luther sought to address was that of inequality. In this case, it is evident that the speaker used the supporting materials well.

The speaker's conclusion in "I Have a Dream" speech is yet another area that requires attention. It is evident that Dr Martin Luther King uses some aspects of pathos as he concludes his speech as he mentions the brutality facing the blacks including the inability to find jobs. There is also some aspects of creativity in the conclusion of the "I Have a Dream" speech as Dr Martin Luther King makes use of some lyrics from a song seeking for freedom. The close is also a powerful one with Luther closing with the words, "Freed at last! Free at Last! Thank God we are free at last."

An analysis of the language used by Dr Martin Luther King Jr. shows that his language was clear, concise, and successful at appealing to the emotions of the audience. For instance, Dr Martin Luther King uses words that are not only deliberate, but words that also instil hope to the listeners. There was also the use of repetition as Luther repeatedly uses the words "I have a dream" in his speech. This shows the audience that in as much as he remembers the past and acknowledges the present; the speaker also has hopes for the future. The style of delivery with regard to eye contact and gestures was also excellent. With reference to the vocal variety, Martin Luther's voice is one that resembles that of a preacher, one that causes the listeners to be captivated by the speech. His gestures and body language is one that showed that Martin Luther King had confidence in whatever he said during the "I Have a Dream" speech.

In conclusion, the overall presentation of the "I Have a Dream" speech was great with much use of rhetorical techniques like repetition. In this case, I believe the speech was a successful one as Dr Martin Luther King Jr. managed to deliver his message to the people, one that over the years saw an accomplishment in the United States of America.