

Teacher's Guide: Remembering Dr. King Activity

This is a powerful activity that gives students an opportunity to reflect on a man of great importance while also reflecting on how they would want to be remembered, themselves, for contributing to people's lives.

Helping students strengthen their core purpose has been shown in control group studies to measurably increase student achievement and persistence. This activity can be used to compliment students' work on their core purpose in EduGuide's online program, or to introduce new students to thinking about their own sense of purpose.

The activity is also a chance to engage with one of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's most cited works. "The Drum Major Instinct" speech provides a window into the many facets of Dr. King's life: a pastor, philosopher and social change agent. In the speech, he addresses issues ranging from personal finance to international relations. And, most remarkably, he talks about how he would like people to remember him at his funeral, only a few months before his life was tragically cut short. The message was delivered to people who had known him his whole life at the church with which he grew up, where he started preaching while still a teenager.

As a call for people to be great at serving others, the Drum Major Instinct also provides an excellent introduction to why Dr. King's holiday is celebrated as the National Day of Service. This activity can be a catalyst for service by inviting students to reflect on how they would like to serve others and how they would like to add to their education so that they have more to contribute.

Text and audio for The Drum Major Instinct is available online (link below). The audio is 39 minutes and has a few brief defects. For a shorter version, begin at 26:45 "But let me rush on to my conclusion..." which leads into Dr. King's main point and how he wanted to be remembered.

<http://edugui.de/drummajorinstinct>

Options to get the most out of this activity:

- Most importantly, encourage students to spend time answering the questions, especially the third question about how they would like others to remember their impact.
- After initial writing, consider engaging students further in discussion about their answers.
- Students can brainstorm acts of service for their school, home and community.
- To help students reflect on the relevance of their education, discuss how the things they are learning will enable them to solve problems and contribute more to their community.
- To view inspiring video responses from other students, visit the EduGuide blog: edugui.de/2015drummajors