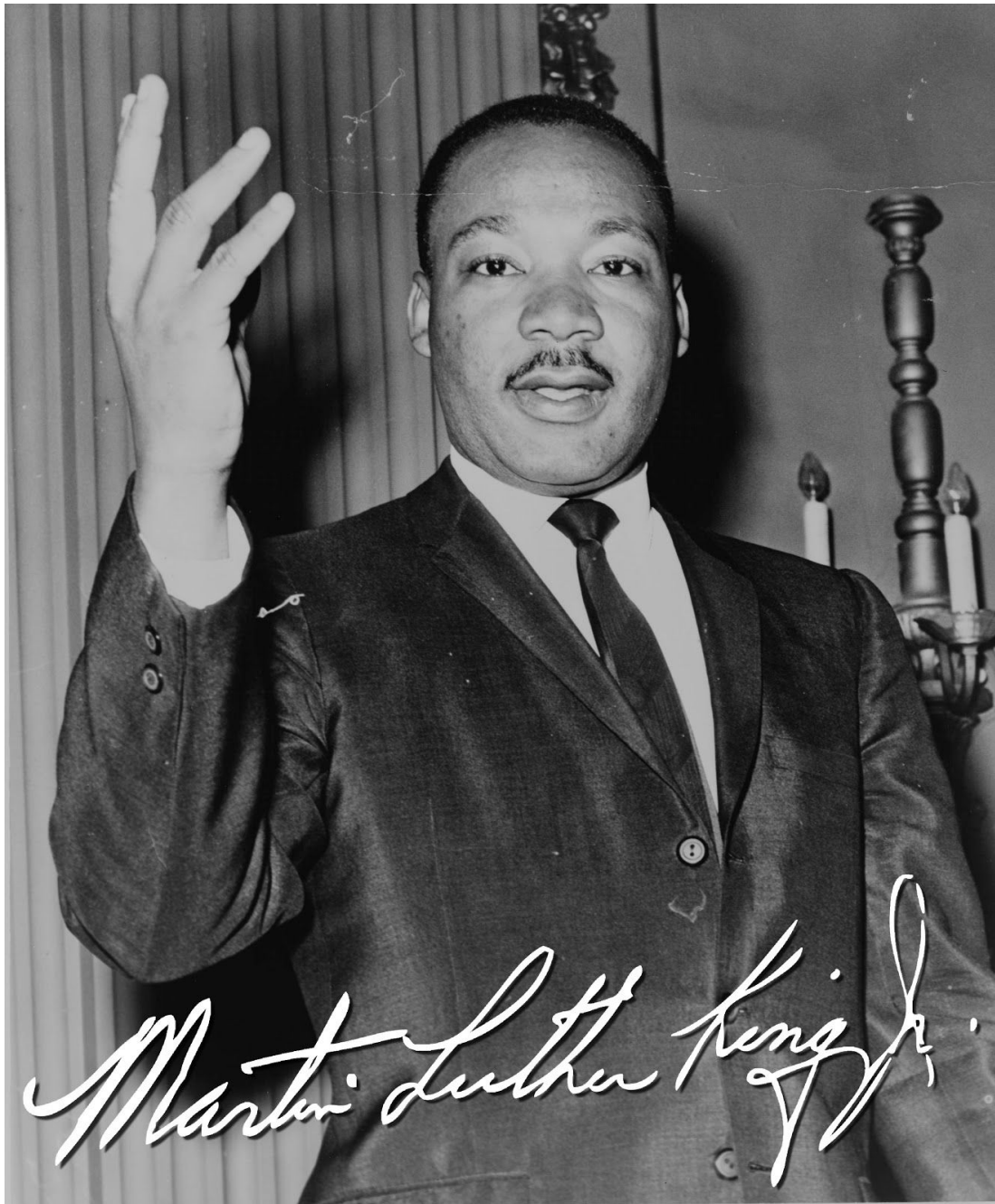


Dr. Martin Luther King



The Question: With oppressive systems against racial and gender minorities being in place for decades, what is the best way of getting rid of them and ensuring equality for all?

My Life: (Deliver in a sweeping tone with a necktie as a prop.).

- I was born Michael Luther King, Jr., but later changed my name to Martin.
- I attended a segregated school in Georgia and I graduated from it when I was fifteen.
- In 1954, I became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. While I was studying to be a pastor, I became a student of Mohandas K. Gandhi.
- Gandhi's work in India inspired me to bring change in the South through peaceful protest.

My Point of View and Personality:

- I am an African American male who views himself as a liberal because I want to get the rights that we are guaranteed under the Constitution through nonviolent ways.
- If we use force, people will call us terrorists and they would be right.
- I am a great speaker. My "I Have a Dream" speech is one of history's best speeches.
- ***I'm a major Star Trek fan.*** It's the only show I let my kids watch. I convinced one of the main cast members, who was African American, to stay on the show because I believe in a peaceful future where everyone will work together.

My Argument: In my judgment, the best way to deliver Civil Rights is

Peaceful Protest/Civil Disobedience/Direct Action:

- Along with **Benjamin Mays** and **CK Steel**, I am a member of the **Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)**. Our goal is to change these evil laws by **conducting civil disobedience**. That means, we don't threaten with weapons nor do we provoke violence. We simply do whatever task white people can do but we can't.
 - For example, the SCLC is doing **sit-ins at Woolworth's lunch counters**: segregation says African Americans can't sit at the counter but white people can. By simply sitting down at the lunch counter, we are bringing change. We will use **direct action and civil disobedience** by showing there is a crisis.
 - If people see that African Americans are getting beaten up or even arrested on television simply for trying to eat lunch, they will realize that law is wrong and they will change it.

(SAVE FOR ACT 2)

(To Malcolm X) Yes, Malcom, I know the FBI thinks I'm a communist. I get phone calls day and night from people I don't know telling me I should either quit or kill myself. But, I can't stop. You know why? Because as a follower of Jesus Christ, I know that I should love my enemies and pray for those who harm me. And that's what we're doing. *(To his response)* Don't forget, Malcom: the system is our enemy; not the people who run it. **By appealing to the humanity of people who aren't African American, we can get rid of the system!** We earn more than we lose! *(To his response)* If that happens, we'll protest again!

Malcolm X (Malcolm Little)



The Question: With oppressive systems against racial and gender minorities being in place for decades, what is the best way of getting rid of them and ensuring equality for all?

My Life: (You think Martin Luther King isn't tough enough. Consider bringing glasses as a prop)

- Call me Malcolm X. "Little" is my slave name.
- I was born in Omaha, Nebraska in 1925, but my family moved to Michigan afterwards.
- My father, Earl, was a Baptist minister and organizer of his local chapter of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and supporter of Marcus Garvey.
- When I was six years old, my father died after getting hit by a streetcar. It was the white man trying to send my community a message.
- In 1946, I went to jail for robbery and when I got out in 1952 I joined the **Nation of Islam**: an African American nationalist group dedicated to tearing down oppression.

My Point of View and Personality:

- I am an African American male with a radical plan. I want to tear everything that keeps African Americans down.
- Religion is my cornerstone. I hold myself to high moral standards.
- When I found out that my Nation of Islam colleague **Elijah Muhammad** wasn't living up to those morals, I distanced myself from the organization.

My Argument: The best way to deliver Civil Rights is... through Decisive Action:

- Let's face it! The United States has been biased against African Americans **since day one**. First there was slavery. Now there's segregation. We'll never be equal.
- The government only exists to serve one group in this country: White Anglo-Saxon Protestants. If you don't hit all three of those categories, you're out of luck!
- So, I say we promote decisive action! We make aggressive actions against the system that oppresses us. **Black Nationalism** says we should **celebrate** what makes us different from WASPs, instead of being ashamed of those differences.
- Also, if the government won't help us, we'll help ourselves. There's another group like the Nation of Islam called the **Black Panthers**. Like the Nation of Islam, the **Black Panthers have taken their own steps to provide education, housing, healthcare and protection for the Black community. I'm not a member, but I approve of the approach!**
- The State of California sees Black Panthers carrying guns and it passes gun control laws to keep guns out of their hands. They call the Black Panthers terrorists. They're not. Nor is the Nation of Islam We just want to protect our own.
- It's like **Eldridge Cleaver**, the founder of the Black Panthers says, **"If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem."**

(SAVE FOR ACT 2)(To Dr. King) Dr. King, peaceful protest doesn't work. The only thing you're getting for your troubles is the FBI's attention. Their **COINTELPRO program** is intended to **target and neutralize** communist agents in our country. You are at the top of their list! *(To his response)* That's nice. but it won't work. Suppose after the government gets rid of segregation. They'll just make **felony disenfranchisement laws** that will keep arrested citizens from voting. Then, by arresting African Americans and other people of color, the U.S. government keeps doing the same thing they're doing now with literacy tests: putting us down! *(To his response)* Then, they'll call you terrorists, again!