

Franklin Thomas once said, *“One day our descendants will think it incredible that we paid so much attention to things like the amount of melanin in our skin or the shape of our eyes or our gender instead of the unique identities of each of us as complex human beings.”* Since the beginning of America, its people have dealt with the issue of discrimination. In the past decade, the fight for opportunity and liberation has only grown. Notable figures have arisen and cemented their place in history, such as Harriet Tubman and Booker T. Washington. But none, perhaps, so well known as Martin Luther King Jr. From 1955 to 1968, he was the most influential and significant leader of the Civil Rights Movement. Recently the battle for impartiality has emerged in the national spotlight with the Black Lives Matter movement. Due to the fact that the campaign is very similar to the passions that were voiced in the 1960s, many other things can also be seen as alike.

One example is the violent aspect of the protests. In the former movement, peaceful protesting was widely encouraged. As a result of the corrupt and biased media we live in today, not much of the orderly marches are shown. Martin Luther King would show the country that this fight isn't all bad. According to an article by Sanya Mansoor at [time.com](https://time.com), *“The vast majority of Black Lives Matter protests—more than 93%—have been peaceful...”* This is a vast difference from what we see now.

Another characteristic is social media's involvement in the current movement. Unlike in the Civil Rights Movement when such technology did not exist, being able to launch a campaign to over 3 billion people almost instantly is something that no generation in history has ever been able to do. Inspiration could come from a powerful message that changes people's opinion. According to an article by Andrew Perrin at [pewresearch.org](https://pewresearch.org), *“Roughly a quarter (23%) of adult social media users in the United States – and 17% of adults overall – say they have changed their*

*views about a political or social issue because of something they saw on social media in the past year, according to a July Pew Research Center survey.”*

Finally, one last aspect of the Black Lives matter movement is the overall goal. Not only has the fight been for equality for African Americans, but also for justice for unfair deaths in recent years such as Breanna Taylor and George Floyd. By standing up against these discriminatory acts of violence, inspiration from the overall message of the movement can move humans to become better people. In an article at britannica.com, the statement is given, *“The name Black Lives Matter signals condemnation of the unjust killings of Black people by police (Black people are far more likely to be killed by police in the United States than white people) and the demand that society value the lives and humanity of Black people as much as it values the lives and humanity of white people.”* By being able to listen and inspire others around us, we can gradually grow as one civilization.

In conclusion, Martin Luther King would distinguish himself from the violent and unlawful parts of the protesting and share his opinions peacefully. Within the last century, many movements have taken place in our nation and the world. By looking to the past, we can grow for our future.

Mansoor, *“93% of Black Lives Matter Protests Have Been Peaceful, New Report Finds”*, *time.com*, 9/5/2020

Perrin, *“23% of users in U.S. say social media led them to change views on an issue; some cite Black Lives Matter”*, *pewresearch.org*, 10/15/20

Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, *“Black Lives Matter international activist movement”*, *britannica.com*, 8/13/20