

Eleven Days in the Life of Dr. King If Not Us, Who?



Grades	6 – 12
Core Content Area	Social studies, civics
Themes	Community building, working together
Materials	Pencil, paper, and prompts below <i>Optional:</i> Poster paper, markers, internet access, social media

Background

Dr. King's Eleventh Day is not a day in his life; it is a day in yours. Schools do not observe the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to pay tribute to a man. Rather, it is to reflect on a vision of justice; to acknowledge the power of nonviolent action; to accept that we, ourselves, are the leaders of civic change.

Lesson Procedure

1.) Take a Stand

Use one of the following prompts to reflect on King's legacy and take a stand on the social justice issues of your day. Write shorter responses and share them as a class via a hallway display, social media campaign (Instagram, SnapChat) or through school news/announcements. Or, write longer prompts and compile as a collection of many voices.

- *The issues Dr. King faced were _____ and _____; the issue I am focused on in my day is _____.*
- *Dr. King used direct action such as marches, sit-ins and boycotts to convey his message; I use _____ in my quest for change. For example....*
- *One injustice that remains despite the efforts of Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s is _____; I'm addressing this by _____.*
- *I am an inheritor of Dr. King's work every day when I _____.*
- *One example of injustice that Dr. King's generation did not solve, but which is up to me and my generation is _____. My strategy to tackle this issue is _____.*
- *One way it's up to me to continue the work of Dr. King in my community is to address _____. I'm doing this by _____.*
- *Dr. King's work lives on at our school because we _____.*

The Eleventh day begins every morning. Who is willing to take action to work for change? Make this your day to bring kindness, courage, and action into the world. If not us, who?