

Analyzing Martin Luther King Jr. Speeches

Directions: You will select 3 Martin Luther King Jr. speeches, which you will then read, research, and analyze. On your first reading of the speeches, you will determine MLK's purpose. Keep this purpose in mind while researching what is happening before he gave the speech, ultimately what inspired his speech (historical events and personal experiences), and how society responded (what happened to him and policies). The second time you read/watch the speeches, you will identify the purpose and tone of the speeches, as well as the persuasive strategies, written techniques, and delivery cues present in each speech. After looking at the similarities and differences in Martin Luther King Jr.'s speeches, you will analyze how he uses these written and delivery strategies to make his speeches more powerful. Then, using your research on the context of his speeches, evaluate the effectiveness of them. Cite your information and provide clear, specific support to develop each claim.

Part 1: Selection

- Select 3 Martin Luther King Jr. speeches
- Read each speech and identify main idea, audience, and purpose of each speech ____/ 3 points

Part 2: Research

- Research the context of each speech ____/ 6 points
 - Historical events preceding the speech
 - Personal events inspiring the speech
- Research the response to each speech ____/ 6 points
 - What happened to him after giving the speech
 - How did society respond to the speech
 - How were policies impacted by his speech

Part 3: Comprehension

- Identify written speech techniques ____/ 3 points
- Identify oratory delivery strategies ____/ 3 points
- Identify persuasive strategies ____/ 2 points
- Identify the tone in each speech ____/ 3 points

Part 4: Analysis

- Analyze how MLK uses written and delivery techniques in his speeches ____/ 12 points
 - How do techniques change for different purposes, audiences, social changes, etc
 - Which techniques remain the same and how do they contribute to the message and purpose of his speeches

Part 5: Evaluation

- Evaluate the effectiveness of his speech ____/ 12 points
 - What happened to him after the speech
 - What happened to society after the speech
 - What happened to policies after the speech
 - What do these changes reveal about society and social attitudes to the civil rights movement

Total ____/ 50 points