Students Reflect on “I Have a Dream” Speech – Discussion Questions

The following questions accompany the “Students Reflect on ‘I Have a Dream’ Speech” videos in this resource on the PBS LearningMedia website. Have students read the text of the speech and then watch the videos to see how other students have responded. Use these questions to talk to students about their reaction to both the videos and the speech.

You can watch more videos of student reactions from Student Reporting Labs here.

Discussion Questions

Read the text of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech. What are his goals for racial equality in the U.S.?

Is there anything in the speech that surprises you? Why?

Has MLK’s dream been realized today? Why or why not?

How have race relations in the U.S. changed since the 1960s? What effects of the Civil Rights Movement do you see today?

How have recent events, such as the Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson, MO or the death of Eric Garner in Staten Island, NY, influenced your understanding of racial progress in the U.S.?

What work still needs to be done to achieve equality for people of all races?