SPEAKING FOCUS

Famous speeches — Martin Luther King Jr.

"Five score years ago, a great American, in _____ we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon of hope to millions of slaves, who had been seared in the flames of whithering injustice. (…)But one hundred years later, the negro is still not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro _____ crippled by the **manacles** of segregation and the chains of discrimination. (…) And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. (…) I have a dream that one day this _____ out the true meaning of its creed. "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal". I have a dream that one day out in the red hills of Georgia the sons of **former** slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. (…)I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation _____ color of their skin but by _____. I have a dream today!"

(I have a dream, Martin Luther King Jr., 1968.)

1. When was the Emancipation Proclamation signed?
2. What did it represent to the "Negro" at that time?
3. According to Martin Luther King Jr., why are black people still not free?
4. What was his dream?
5. In your opinion, has his dream become reality in the United States and in other countries?



Developing vocabulary

1. momentous

2. manacles

3. creed

4. self-evident

5. former

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SPEAKING FOCUS



Parts of speech

Your **conclusion** is going to be the last chance you have at **making an impact** on your listeners. Here you should concentrate on making all that you said before clear and evident to your audience. At this point, you should hint that you are near the end of your talk, summarize the main points, restate the main idea, **connect the dots** between your introduction and your development, and thank your audience for having listened to you.



Fluency

The director **wanted** you to go to that meeting.
I didn't know *the director* ***wanted me*** *to go to that meeting.*

1. Her mom needed you to babysit tonight.
2. He would like you to join him for dinner.
3. They were counting on you to fundraise enough money.
4. The teacher requires all students to give a speech.
5. She wanted you to be her bridesmaid.
6. Your mother needs you to help your sister with her homework.
7. I would like you to do this for me.
8. I want you to get the recipe with your grandmother.



Listen and discuss

THE BOYCOTT

1. Why was Rosa Parks expected to give up her seat?
2. Why was she tired?
3. What was the boycott? Was it effective?
4. Do you agree that Rosa Parks was one of the most influential leaders of her time?

Public Speaking Hints

Write down your speech,
but don't read it word for word.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SPEAKING FOCUS

Transcript

The Boycott

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, an African American woman, was on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. At that time, racial segregation was legal, and Black passengers had to sit in the back. If the white section was full, Black people were expected to give up their seats. When a white man boarded and there were no more seats available, the driver told Parks to stand. She refused.

Parks was tired—not just physically after a long day of work as a seamstress, but also emotionally. She was exhausted from the constant discrimination and unfair treatment Black people faced daily. Her simple act of resistance led to her arrest, but it also sparked a major movement.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott began shortly after Parks' arrest. Black citizens refused to use the city's buses, choosing instead to walk or carpool. Since most bus riders were Black, the boycott had a huge economic impact. It lasted for over a year, until the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation on public buses was unconstitutional. The boycott was a success and a turning point in the Civil Rights Movement.

Rosa Parks became a symbol of resistance and courage. Many consider her one of the most influential leaders of her time because her actions inspired others to fight for equality. Her bravery showed that one person's decision could change history. Do you agree?

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