

# Speeches With Style

**“I Have A Dream” By: Martin Luther King Jr.**

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# Sentence Structure-

Martin Luther King Jr. uses parallel structure. He says, “I have a dream...” about 8 times through his speech.

This enhances his speech because it shows the audience what he wants to see in the future for all races.

# Parallelism-

Martin Luther King Jr. uses parallelism when he says, “I have a dream...” (King para. 11-16).

He repeats this phrase repeatedly throughout his speech. This is effective because it calls to the reader what his intentions are, and that change needs to happen.

# Punctuation-

Every piece of punctuation in his “I Have A Dream” speech matters. He uses an exclamation mark when he says, “I have a dream today!” (King para. 11).

Using the exclamation mark helps to get his point across. Gets the audiences attention, and lets them know that he’s serious.

# Metaphor-

“One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination” (King para. 2).

He uses the comparison to describe how devastating segregation, and racism really are.

# Simile-

“No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until "justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream” (King para. 9).

This is effective because it lets the audience imagine how he wants change. And that no one will be satisfied until everyone is treated equal.

# Antonomasia

“...a great American” (King para. 2 )(in reference to Abraham lincoln)

# Analogy

Analogy- "But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so, we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice." (King para. 5)

This enhances his speech by saying that there will come a time that the blacks will be able to get justice from whites.



# Signifying

Signifying- "But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free"(King para.3)

Here he is "trash-talking" the whites saying that still even though "the Negro" seems free but they are not fully free. This enhances his speech because he is using this against the whites.

# Hyperbole

Hyperbole- “the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination”(King para.3)

This is exaggerating because he uses “manacles” and “chains”. Of course there is not really any “chains of discrimination” but King wants to show how bad the discrimination really is.

# Understatement

Understatement-” America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds."  
(King para. 4)

The bad check is actually discrimination and “freedom” the blacks were promised. Instead of actually being free they still have discrimination in places.

# Rhetorical Question

Rhetorical Question- "When will you be satisfied?" (King para. 14)

This enhances his speech because he is indirectly asking the whites when they will be satisfied with the blacks.

# Antithesis

“I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low...” (King para. 23)  
(contrast of ‘mountain’ and ‘valley’)

# Irony

“signed the emancipation proclamation... But one hundred years later the negro is still not free” (King para. 2-3) (ironically, though the freedom of the negro has been guaranteed it is still not so)

# Anaphora

“But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination.”  
(King para. 3) (repeats “one hundred years later...”)

# Reversed Structure

“Let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I say to you today, my friends” (King para. 15) (I say to you today was inserted in the middle of the paragraph)



# Bibliography-

King, Martin Luther. I have a Dream. Lincoln Memorial, Washington D.C. 28 August 1963. Address.