

# I Have a Dream...

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I hope that one day people won't have to change themselves to make society happy. I've found myself changing from the way I act to the way I dress countless times. There's always someone being put down or bullied because they don't fit in. Society tells us how we are supposed to look, act, etc., but we don't have to fit in. We were born to be our own individual people.

My dream is that one day boys and girls alike will not live up to a standard that society gives them, but be themselves and be okay with that. I look at it this way: there's an ice tray that everyone is put in, and all the molds look the same. It's your decision as if you want to stick with the people who are going to live their lives in black and white, and be like the rest and freeze into the mold. Or if you want to live your life in color, and stand out from the crowd. Nobody has your fingerprint, so my hope is that people proudly be themselves, and not worry that they aren't like the rest.

My hope is that girls and boys alike will be happy with who they are and not fear that they are bad because they are different than the rest. I have struggled with my image, I've compared myself to others, whether it's the amount of money my family has, or my physical appearance. Far too many people become insecure just by the swipe of a finger on a social media or by glancing at the cover of a magazine. Around one half of teenage girls, and one third of teenage boys perform acts such as skipping meals, vomiting, and fasting. Our world has placed the "perfect" image in front of the eyes of many, and instead of accepting themselves for who they are, they let society decide if they are good enough. My hope is that humans of all races, ages, and genders will not feel that they need to live up to the standard that society gives them.

My school experience has been filled with the fear of not being like the people I surround myself with. It's okay to be different, but I haven't realized that until recently. Being different most of the time means being yourself. We have to learn that being yourself is beautiful in itself. You don't have to look like a model on a billboard or the drop-dead

gorgeous actor on TV to be beautiful. My hope is that one day society will accept all people, because acceptance to me is beautiful.

“I have a dream”. Those are the words of a Martin Luther King Jr. who left his mark in the history of our nation. King had a dream, a vision, to make all individuals looked upon and treated equally. Everything that shaped our nation was started with a vision, then a goal was set and it was worked towards. Martin Luther King didn’t live like the rest, he dared to be different and was okay with it, and my hope is that one day everyone will dare to be different, and be okay with it. It all starts with a simple vision, and that vision sprouts into a reality.