

i have a dream speech mla citation

i have a dream speech mla citation is an essential aspect for students, researchers, and writers who wish to reference one of the most iconic speeches in American history accurately. Delivered by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the March on Washington in 1963, this speech symbolizes the struggle for civil rights and equality. Properly citing this speech in MLA format ensures academic integrity and helps readers locate the original source. This article provides a comprehensive guide on how to cite the "I Have a Dream" speech using MLA citation style. It covers the basics of MLA citation, detailed examples of how to reference speeches, and tips on incorporating quotations and paraphrases effectively. Additionally, the article explains nuances related to citing speeches accessed through various mediums and offers a step-by-step approach to formatting citations correctly. The following table of contents outlines the main sections of this guide to assist in navigating through the topic.

- Understanding MLA Citation Style
- Citing the "I Have a Dream" Speech in MLA Format
- Examples of MLA Citations for the Speech
- Incorporating Quotations and Paraphrases
- Special Considerations for Digital and Audio Sources

Understanding MLA Citation Style

MLA (Modern Language Association) citation style is widely used in humanities disciplines, especially in literature, cultural studies, and history. It provides a standardized method for documenting sources, allowing readers to trace the origin of information. MLA style emphasizes the author-page format for in-text citations and a detailed Works Cited page entry. Understanding the fundamentals of MLA citation is crucial when referencing speeches like the "I Have a Dream" address to maintain academic rigor and clarity.

Key Features of MLA Style

The MLA format requires specific components in citations such as the author's name, title of the source, container titles when applicable, publication details, and the date. For speeches, the citation may vary depending on whether the speech is accessed in print, online, or through audio or video recordings. MLA

style also mandates double-spacing, hanging indents for entries on the Works Cited page, and the use of italics or quotation marks as appropriate.

Why Cite Speeches?

Citing speeches like "I Have a Dream" is necessary to give proper credit to the original speaker and to allow readers to verify the source. Speeches often contain powerful rhetoric and historical significance, making accurate citation important for scholarly discussions, research papers, and presentations.

Citing the "I Have a Dream" Speech in MLA Format

When citing the "I Have a Dream" speech in MLA format, the citation depends on the source through which the speech was accessed. The original speech was delivered by Martin Luther King Jr. on August 28, 1963, at the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington. This information forms the foundation of the citation.

Basic Format for Citing a Speech

The general MLA format for a speech citation is as follows:

1. Speaker's Last Name, First Name.
2. Title of the Speech in Quotation Marks.
3. Title of the Container (if applicable, such as a book, website, or video platform) in Italics.
4. Other contributors (if relevant, such as editors or translators).
5. Version or edition (if applicable).
6. Publisher.
7. Date of publication or performance.
8. Location or URL (if accessed online).

Example Citation for the Original Speech

When citing the original 1963 speech as a standalone work without an intermediary container, the citation might look like this on the Works Cited page:

King, Martin Luther, Jr. "I Have a Dream." 28 Aug. 1963, Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C.

This citation includes the speaker's name, the title of the speech in quotation marks, the date, and the location where the speech was given. This format is appropriate for referencing the speech as an independent event or document.

Examples of MLA Citations for the Speech

Depending on how the speech is accessed, the MLA citation varies. Below are examples illustrating common scenarios for citing the "I Have a Dream" speech.

Citation from a Book Containing the Speech

If the speech is included in a book or anthology, the citation should include the editor, book title, publisher, and publication date:

King, Martin Luther, Jr. "I Have a Dream." *Great Speeches of the 20th Century*, edited by John Smith, Penguin Books, 2005, pp. 134-139.

Citation from an Online Source

When the speech is accessed through a website, include the URL and the date of access if the content is likely to change:

King, Martin Luther, Jr. "I Have a Dream." *American Rhetoric*,
www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkihaveadream.htm. Accessed 15 Mar. 2024.

Citation from an Audio or Video Recording

For audiovisual versions, mention the title of the video or audio, the platform, the uploader, and the date uploaded:

King, Martin Luther, Jr. "I Have a Dream." *YouTube*, uploaded by HistoryChannel, 10 Jan. 2010,
www.youtube.com/watch?v=smEqnnklfYs.

Incorporating Quotations and Paraphrases

In academic writing, using quotations or paraphrasing from the "I Have a Dream" speech requires proper MLA in-text citations to attribute the source accurately. This section explains how to integrate speech excerpts into the text.

Direct Quotations

When quoting directly from the speech, include the speaker's last name and line number or section if available. Since speeches often do not have page numbers, use a shortened title if necessary:

Example: Dr. King famously declared, "I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted" ("I Have a Dream").

Paraphrasing

When paraphrasing ideas from the speech, acknowledge the source similarly to direct quotes, ensuring the in-text citation corresponds to the Works Cited entry:

Example: Martin Luther King Jr. emphasized the hope for racial equality and justice in his 1963 speech ("I Have a Dream").

Formatting Tips

- Use quotation marks around direct speech excerpts.
- Keep quotations concise and relevant.
- Incorporate block quotes for passages longer than four lines.
- Ensure all in-text citations have corresponding Works Cited entries.

Special Considerations for Digital and Audio Sources

Modern access to the "I Have a Dream" speech often involves digital and multimedia formats. MLA citation guidelines accommodate these formats with specific details to enhance clarity and retrievability.

Citing Streaming Platforms and Websites

When citing the speech from streaming platforms or websites, include the platform's name, the uploader or author of the video, and the date of publication or upload. URLs should be included without hyperlink formatting.

Access Dates and Stability of Sources

Including the date the source was accessed is recommended for online content that may be updated or removed. This practice informs readers about the currency of the reference.

Example of Digital Audio Citation

King, Martin Luther, Jr. "I Have a Dream." *Spotify*, uploaded by Civil Rights Archives, 2018.

Additional Tips for Multimedia Sources

- Identify the type of source clearly (audio, video, transcript).
- Use descriptive titles when official titles are unavailable.
- Follow MLA guidelines for container titles and contributors.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do you cite the 'I Have a Dream' speech in MLA format?

In MLA format, you cite the 'I Have a Dream' speech as follows: King, Martin Luther, Jr. "I Have a Dream." Delivered 28 Aug. 1963, Washington D.C.

What is the correct in-text citation for the 'I Have a Dream' speech in MLA style?

The in-text citation for the 'I Have a Dream' speech in MLA style is (King).

How do you cite the 'I Have a Dream' speech if accessed online in MLA format?

If accessed online, cite the speech as: King, Martin Luther, Jr. "I Have a Dream." 28 Aug. 1963. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute, Stanford University, URL. Accessed Day Month Year.

Can I include the date of the speech in the MLA citation for 'I Have a Dream'?

Yes, including the date the speech was delivered is recommended in MLA citations, e.g., "28 Aug. 1963."

How do I cite a video recording of the 'I Have a Dream' speech in MLA format?

For a video, cite it as: King, Martin Luther, Jr. "I Have a Dream." Performance by Martin Luther King, Jr., 28 Aug. 1963. Name of Website or Platform, uploaded by User, Date, URL.

Is it necessary to mention the location of the speech in the MLA citation?

While not mandatory, it is good practice to include the location, such as Washington D.C., in the citation for clarity.

How do I format the Works Cited entry for the 'I Have a Dream' speech in MLA 9th edition?

The Works Cited entry should be: King, Martin Luther, Jr. "I Have a Dream." 28 Aug. 1963, Washington D.C.

Additional Resources

1. *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years 1954-63* by Taylor Branch

This comprehensive historical account details the early years of the civil rights movement, focusing on Martin Luther King Jr. and the events leading up to his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech. Branch provides in-depth analysis of the political and social climate that shaped King's vision. The book offers valuable context for understanding the significance of the speech within the broader struggle for racial equality.

2. *Martin Luther King Jr.: A Life* by Marshall Frady

Frady's biography offers an intimate portrait of Martin Luther King Jr., exploring his personal life, leadership, and the development of his philosophies. The book covers key moments including the drafting and delivery of the "I Have a Dream" speech. It is a well-rounded resource for those looking to understand

King's impact on civil rights and American history.

3. *Why We Can't Wait* by Martin Luther King Jr.

Written by King himself, this book outlines the urgent need for civil rights reforms during the early 1960s and reflects the themes expressed in the "I Have a Dream" speech. King discusses the Birmingham campaign and the broader fight against segregation and injustice. This primary source provides direct insight into King's thoughts and rhetoric.

4. *Rhetoric and Reality: The "I Have a Dream" Speech and Its Impact* by David J. Garrow

Garrow examines the rhetorical strategies employed by King in his famous speech and analyzes its immediate and long-term effects on American society. The book explores how the speech shaped public opinion and influenced legislation. It is a crucial text for understanding the power of King's oratory.

5. *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.* edited by Clayborne Carson

This collection of King's writings, speeches, and reflections provides a comprehensive view of his life and work, including the "I Have a Dream" speech. Edited by a leading King scholar, the volume contextualizes the speech within King's broader philosophy and activism. It is essential reading for anyone studying King's legacy.

6. *Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance* by Barack Obama

While not directly about King's speech, Obama's memoir reflects on the influence of King's vision of racial equality on his own life and political journey. The book connects personal narrative with the broader civil rights movement, offering a modern perspective on King's enduring legacy.

7. *Bearing the Cross: Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference* by David J. Garrow

This Pulitzer Prize-winning biography details King's leadership within the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the civil rights movement. It closely examines the events surrounding the 1963 March on Washington and the delivery of the "I Have a Dream" speech. Garrow's work is critical for understanding the organizational and strategic aspects of King's activism.

8. *March on Washington: Jobs, Freedom, and the Forgotten History of Civil Rights* by William P. Jones

Jones provides a detailed history of the 1963 March on Washington, the event during which King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. The book highlights the political negotiations, grassroots activism, and cultural significance of the march. It offers readers a broader understanding of the context in which King's speech became a defining moment.

9. *King: A Biography* by David Levering Lewis

Lewis's biography presents a thorough and balanced view of Martin Luther King Jr.'s life, exploring both his public achievements and private struggles. The book covers the development and impact of the "I Have a Dream" speech within King's career. It is a scholarly work that provides rich historical context and critical analysis.

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