

2026 • 13TH ANNUAL

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

SCHOLARSHIP
COMPETITION

Friday, January 23
7:30 am

Cash Scholarships
Awards for MVC and
local High School students

Speech & Spoken Word
MVC Students

Essay Response
High School Students

BLUEPRINTS FOR CHANGE

LIVING THE LEGACY OF DR. KING

**MORENO
VALLEY
COLLEGE**

VISIT [MVC.EDU/MLK](https://mvc.edu/mlk)

LEARN MORE AND ENTER

Moreno Valley Conference and Recreation Center
14075 Frederick St., Moreno Valley, CA 92553



Riverside Community College District is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation to all District programs and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the program/event organizer, Shantine Alex at (951) 571-6159 by January 12. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

SCHOLARSHIP

MORENO
VALLEY
COLLEGE

ELIGIBILITY

High school students in the Val Verde and Moreno Valley unified school districts

RESPONSE FORMAT

Respond to the prompt with a 750 to 1,500 word essay, typed, with citations in MLA format. Include one extra line between each paragraph. For titles, use quotes, not italics or underlines.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Complete the [scholarship application form](#). Paste your typed response into the response form fields. Special formatting will be lost (italics, underline). Include references in MLA format in the Works Cited field. Do not include your name or a heading in your essay response.

\$500 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Acceptance requires attendance to the MLK Scholarship Breakfast event. Four total scholarship awards will be granted.

DEADLINE

November 31 by 11:59 pm

MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.mvc.edu/mlk.

In October 1967, during one of the most turbulent periods in American history, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered *What Is Your Life's Blueprint?* to a group of middle school students at Barratt Junior High School in Philadelphia.

At that time, Dr. King had faced increasing criticism for expanding his work beyond civil rights to include poverty, housing inequality, and opposition to the Vietnam War. Cities across America, including Philadelphia, were grappling with segregation, underfunded schools, and limited economic opportunities for Black and working-class communities.

Despite these challenges, Dr. King chose to speak directly to young people — not about protest or policy, but about self-worth, moral integrity, and purpose. He urged them to design a blueprint for their lives that would serve as a foundation for personal and collective progress.

His message was simple but powerful: even in a world filled with injustice, each person must believe in their own “somebodiness” and commit to excellence in everything they do.

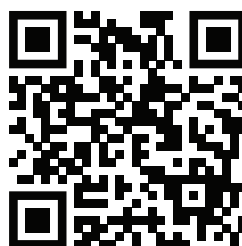
Today, as our society continues to confront issues of increased housing and food insecurity, mental health, civic division, and gaps in what constitutes humanity, Dr. King’s message remains a timeless call to action — reminding us that change begins with how we build our own blueprints for life.

Reflect on Dr. King’s *What Is Your Life’s Blueprint?* and its meaning in today’s world. In a 750 - 1,000 word essay, address the following questions:

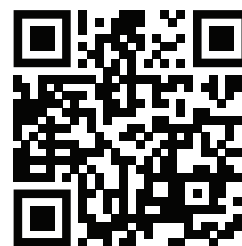
- What social or historical issues made Dr. King’s message especially important in 1967 and how is his message relevant today?
- How do the ideas of dignity, purpose, and excellence apply to challenges young people face today — such as access to education, equality, or self-identity?
- What does your life’s blueprint look like? What values, goals, or principles guide the person you are becoming?
- How can you use your education, leadership, or voice to help build a more just and compassionate world?

Your response should connect Dr. King’s ideas to your own experiences and aspirations, showing how his call to build a strong foundation still resonates for a new generation

READ THE SPEECH



APPLY



All applications for financial assistance programs (i.e. student loans, work compensation, grants, scholarships, special funds, subsidies, prizes, etc.) will be considered by the Riverside Community College District without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies or practices: District Compliance Officer, 3801 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501, or (951) 222-8039.