

CITY OF IRVING 2022 MLK ESSAY CONTEST WINNER

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The theme, “Reaching the Mountaintop”, can be found throughout many events in history, such as the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement. The Civil War was a war between the Southern states and Northern states of the United States of America over the emancipation of all slaves in the United States of America. The Civil Rights Movement was a movement against racial segregation and discrimination during the 1950s and ‘60s. “Reaching the Mountaintop” refers to the struggle and dedication it takes to achieve a goal like how when climbing a mountain hardships must be taken on to reach the top. The Civil War was an event where “Reaching the Mountaintop” can be seen in it. The Civil War was where the Northern states came together to emancipate slaves while Southern states tried to keep slavery alive. This war would be four years long from 1861 to 1865. It was the deadliest American war. This showed the dedication of the North especially with having to deal with more casualties than the South. The North had a goal to free slaves who were treated terribly. They did not back down or surrender but kept fighting and eventually after four years of hard and long fighting had all slaves emancipated. The Civil Rights Movement was a movement in which “Reaching the Mountaintop” can be found in it. It was a movement to end segregation and discrimination based on race. This movement was over ten years long from 1954 to 1968. People who stood for civil rights were arrested, attacked, and harassed for fighting for equality but they did not give up. People gathered together and protested with nonviolent protests and great leaders rose to fight for equality. When Martin Luther King Jr., a prominent leader during the movement, delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech, over 250,000 people attended to hear and support civil rights. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 made segregation in public and discrimination based on race illegal. For so long segregation and discrimination had existed even before the movement, but after the toil and the efforts of the Civil Rights Movement, segregation and discrimination were illegal and legislation was put in place for racial equality. The Civil War and Civil Rights Movement are events that the theme, “Reaching the Mountaintop”, can be found in. The Civil War was a war fought for the freedom of slaves in the United States of America. It was a deadly war that lasted four years. The North dealt with many hardships but fought and ended slavery. The Civil Rights Movement was a movement for the end of segregation and discrimination based on race. It took ten years of nonviolent protests for legislation to be put in place that made segregation and discrimination illegal. These triumphs of justice were all achieved by hard toil and efforts of many people coming together for a cause and continuing to fight for their cause until it was achieved.