

The United Post

A DREAM SHARED BY ALL

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Martin Luther King gives his speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial yesterday.

Yesterday, beneath the watchful eyes of Good Old Abe in Washington DC, Dr Martin Luther King Jr gave a rapturous speech to a huge crowd of supporters about his dream of racial equality, adding further support to the growing campaign for Civil Rights across our United States.

Approximately 250,000 supporters filled the space of the Washington Monument in order to hear Dr King, who has recently made headlines all round the world, speak. “He is an inspiration to us all,” gasped a thrilled follower Gabriel Butler, age 16, as he entered the area, grasping his prized possession: a Dr Martin Luther King supporter badge.

Alas, the crowd wasn't disappointed by the performance provided by Dr King. Galvanised by seeing the leader of the Civil Rights movement take to the stage, the swollen crowd exploded into euphoric cheering and applause as the summer sun beat down upon the Capital of our great nation. Whilst appearing slightly nervous during the first half of his speech, Dr King soon had the crowd in the palm of his hand. The confidence he quickly found resulted in his speech stretching to seventeen minutes instead of his allotted five – much to the delight of those below, as well as the millions watching on TV.

Without a doubt, the success of King's speech was his already infamous line, “I have a dream!” which he proclaimed in his usual gospel, melodic tone. Further adding to the terrific impact of his words, Luther King raised the roof as he declared his dream of freedom from segregation a total of eight times in an increasingly enthusiastic, emotive and expressive tone. Dr King was, as always, honest after making his landmark statement; claiming he had added the hit ‘I have a dream’ line into his speech moments before he walked on to the stage.

Without doubt, it could be claimed that this moment could be historic in the fight towards ending inequality between black and white citizens. King, his supporting speakers and many followers made their desire clear through the power of words yesterday. Policemen keeping the event secure were heard commenting on the peaceful atmosphere of the event.

So, what does this momentous occasion mean for the Civil Rights movement as a whole? President Kennedy (sat a mere few hundred meters away in the White House) watched Dr King's speech on television and was apparently impressed with the power of the gathering. The impact of this, potentially, historic day is yet to be seen. Only time will tell...

TASK

1. Read through this model newspaper report

2. Highlight examples of **direct speech**

HINT look for the inverted commas

3. Next, highlight examples of **indirect/reported speech**

HINT speech punctuation isn't used for indirect speech