



What Can MLK's Legacy Teach Us About Digital Citizenship?



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Welcome back, everyone! Martin Luther King Jr. Day is on Monday. It's a great opportunity to help students reflect on his legacy and to inspire them to be positive change-makers.

Hook

Most people today remember MLK Jr. for his civil rights work, his message of unity, and his advocacy of nonviolent activism. But another strategy King employed was using media to, in his words, "create a powerful cultural bridge between Black and white." Radio and television played an important role in the civil rights movement, and King spoke at the 1967 annual conference of the National Association of Television and Radio Announcers. He addressed the audience of broadcasters, saying:

"For better or for worse, you are opinion-makers in the community, and it is important that you remain aware of the power which is potential in your vocation. The masses are almost totally dependent on the radio as their means of relating to the society at large."

Key statement or question

Today, technology and digital media are arguably just as powerful in shaping people's opinions, and can offer our students the power to bring about positive social change. To fulfill this potential, it's essential that students develop the digital citizenship skills they need to navigate the social and civic challenges of today's connected world.

Here are some digital citizenship lessons and activities that can help your students reflect on their civic agency and practice being upstanding digital citizens:

More details, strategies, and/or tips

- [Our Responsibilities Online: SEL Activity \(Grades 3–5\)](#)
- [Our Digital Citizenship Pledge \(Grade 3–5\)](#)
- [Dealing with Digital Drama: SEL Activity \(Grades 6–8\)](#)
- [Responding to Online Hate Speech \(Grades 6–8\)](#)
- [Online Disinhibition and Cyberbullying \(Grades 9–12\)](#)
- [We Are Civil Communicators \(Grades 9–12\)](#)

Civic agency grows in the classroom. These lessons and activities will inspire your students to think about their civic resolutions for the new year.

Wrap-up

As we reflect on the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., we're renewing our commitment to helping students everywhere be positive change-makers. Over the coming months we'll be publishing a series of new classroom activities to help students overcome the civic challenges of our time. Stay tuned!

Until then, we wish you a smooth start to the year—especially in light of the pandemic-related challenges we're all facing right now. We'll be here to support you along the way.

Sincerely,
Daniel

Did you enjoy this email?



Survey

Here's what else we've got for you this week:

Family engagement

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT RESOURCES

Books to Inspire Young Activists

From local to global, help families think about how kids can get involved and create positive change.

Webinar: Common Sense Selections for Learning

Join us on Jan. 25 at 3 p.m. Eastern to hear about this year's standout tools for digital learning, plus ideas on how to use them in your classroom.

Optional: marketing and promotion blocks

Help Us Improve Our Digital Citizenship Content!

We'd like your feedback about our curriculum! Are you interested in a brief interview over Zoom? Take this quick survey.

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