In his remarkable “I Have a Dream” speech, the esteemed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. employs metaphor to intensify the negative impact of segregation on the African American community. He compares the endeavors of the prejudiced minority to those of a “quest,” specifically a “quest for freedom,” for the audience to assimilate the magnitude of their sufferance in comparison to an arduous journey. Similarly, King refers to “justice” as a “bank [that has gone] bankrupt” to emphasize the lack of racial equality amongst these people in juxtaposition to the lack of money in a bank. King highlights the necessity of unity for the American population by forming a relationship between the struggles of African Americans to concrete issues that affect almost every community.

Through purposeful allusions to pieces of literature, Dr. King cements his ideals of racial unity in the minds of his audience. He makes known his arsenal of knowledge when he states that the Negro’s thirst for justice will not be sated until “justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.” This allusion to the bible verse, Amos 5:24, not only supplements his credibility, but adds a poetic touch to his powerful words. The use of the Bible could be seen as his way to reach the hearts of people of the faith and showcase his position as a man of the cloth. Not only does he target religious followers, but intellectuals as well as he announces that “this sweltering summer of the Negro’s legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality.” This sheds light to his extensive education as he alludes to Shakespeare’s King Richard III. It too paints the image of the Negro race’s immense vexation with the injustice that keeps them stranded “on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity.” Thus, this brilliant speaker instills within the people of the American nation, both whites and blacks, the goal of attaining equality amongst all races.

The speaker initially creates a hopeless tone to convey the gloomy feeling that “Negro[s]” have due to their isolation in a nation. He says that “Negro[s]” are “still not free” after 100 years of singing “the Emancipation Proclamation” which establishes the desperation he feels about racial discrimination. He continues by arguing that, “America has defaulted” to give equality to all men implying that their own government fails to create unity between citizens which makes the audience perceive the lack of change. Nonetheless, he shifts to a hopeful tone by claiming, “We refuse believe that” racial discrimination would be permanent. Through this Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gives hope to the audience and have faith in change. He proceeds by exclaiming that “there will be... [no] tranquility... until Negro[s are] granted their citizenship” which, ultimately, motivates a country to fight for racial equality and unification between people, especially Americans.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s employment of anaphora fabricates a sense of hope that pivots the speech. By articulating that "we can never be satisfied as long as our bodies... cannot police gain lodging in motels "and "we can never be satisfied as long as the negro is the victim... of police brutality," the speaker brings emphasis to the atrocious manner in which they are treated, and proclaims to never settle for anything less than the "unalienable right" promised by the declaration of independence. Likewise when he includes "Now is the time... to rise from the dark... Valley of segregation," and "Now is the time... to raise from racial injustice," he asserts them that they will get through the "brutality" of segregation, by acting now. Through the usage of anaphora Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Is able to depict a world free of segregation and give aspiration to a nation.

Martin Luther King speech makes use of repetition to give a sense of identity to the African American community in America and unite them in peaceful protest. “The Negro still is not free” emphasizes the need for equality in America between blacks and whites because “the Negro community is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation.” The constant use of the term “Negro” throughout the opening of the speech highlights the oppressed people and the racism that degraded their ethnic identity. Nowhere was this degrading and oppressing attitude worse than in the south where the “Negro” was segregated and discriminated against. Martin Lutl King emphasizes this by repeating “go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina.” By repeating “go back” King highlights where the true problem lies and where to assault it. In this speech repetition serves as a testament to the hardships the “Negro” people faced and how they endured.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. triumphantly galvanizes a nation to unite and stand up for racial equality.
In Dr. King’s powerful speech, “I have a dream,” he utilizes symbolism to portray the African Americans hope and emotions being felt throughout the yeas of segregation. Martin Luther King Jr represents the Emancipation Proclamation as a “momentous decree [that] came as a great beacon light of hope” to the millions of African Americans who have suffered injustice due to the color of their skin. Dr. King demonstrates how the Emancipation Proclamation brings a new light and hope to the people who have been treated unfairly and how the beacon light represents a new start with new opportunities for African Americans. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was a beacon of light, African Americans still fight for equality as they live in an “island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity.” By stating the Emancipation Proclamation, Dr. King reminds the crowd that their freedom was granted but it has long been ignored and that now is the time to take action.

In like manner, Martin Luther King alludes to fundamental texts to compel his audience to demand for change. Society typically follows the word of religion and law. Because of this, Dr. King quotes both the Bible and the Constitution in his speech so that the audience can further relate to his preaching. For the audience to hear that “all men … would be guaranteed the ‘unalienable rights’ of ‘Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness,’” is written in the Declaration of Independence, they will realize that their ancestors once wished for an equal world for all people, even for those who were colored. As soon as the audience comprehends that the writings they have been following for years is in agreement for African American equality, they will be more likely to convert to the same mindset.

In a similar way, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. uses metaphors on his address so he can create a powerful tone in its voice. This great leader aims for the listeners to be moved by him saying “the manacles of segregation” or “the chains of discrimination” because he wants this man/woman to open their eyes on the issue. Likewise, word choice comes into play on this literary tool for the doctor uses powerful words unto it when he says “the cup of bitterness” and “the whirlwinds of revolt” so the listener can get motivated to stand up for what is right. In addition, his use towards metaphors stimulates his audience (the supporters of African-American equality) to rise against those who are with injustice.

Just as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. encourages the audience to feel the importance in fighting against prejudice through the application of metaphors, he also puts to use the art of hypophora. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. kindles a fierce feeling when he asked his brothers and sisters, “when we will you [the audience] be satisfied?” By posing this question, the great minister awakens all the injustice African Americans have endured in the audience’s minds. Dr. Martin Luther King did not leave this question to drift away, but he prominently declares that “we [African Americans] can never be satisfied,” as long as the “Negro is the victim…and robbed of their dignity…[and] as our children are stripped of their self-hood and robbed of their dignity…” The speaker passionately implements anaphora in the phrase “we can never be satisfied,” to display and remind the African American community that their fight is not because of one factor, but of many that affect their lives every day. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. effectively demonstrate his people that there would be no more tolerance and the right time to fight for their rights is only one: now.

Dr. Martin Luther King couples hypophora with anaphora to establish the sense of urgency to create a nation of racial equality. "One hundred years later" Negroes are still being languished into the corners of American society. This indicates that all this time has passed and such little change has occurred. The constant repetition of "Now is the time" reflects that Dr. King is fed up with all the horror that they have had to withstand due to their skin color and will not take "no" for an answer. The activist deploys that the clock is ticking and no more time should be wasted. Not a day shall pass without them being given what they deserve. It is through the use if emphasis on specific phrases that we are better to understand the need of change immediately.

The historic activist, our writer, also emphasizes a stressed tone to engage the audience for an agreement towards his believe of racial equality. From the onset of the speech, Martin Luther King references segregation, "... a time to dramatize a shameful condition.", during that time period, which suggests that there is a social reformation expected. In the same way he compels the crowd to thrive for change by adding " Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama… knowing that somehow… will be changed." The speaker's employment of imperative sentences reflects his involvement in his role as a leader for civil rights. In this piece Dr. Martin Luther King fosters a demanding sound, giving the people a glimpse of the future freedom for the nation.
Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” Speech Team Analyses

Group 5C

Martin Luther King Junior begins his "I Have a Dream" speech declaring that what was being spoken that day would go down in history as “the greatest demonstration [of] freedom... [the] nation” has ever known. The speech did in fact make history that day and one of the motions used to make this possible was MLK's use of repetition. The impact made by the anaphora used when he described how "one hundred years later" oppression still "chained" the colored population, encouraged the crowd to tune their ears and listen. When Mr. King repeated "Now is the time," it emanated a sense of empowerment in its listeners. It led the audience to firmly believe that the time had come for changes to occur. Dr. King's intense repetition reminded them of that power that is "Now." As the speech goes on there are phrases repeated multiple times: "go back," "we can," and "I have a dream," being some of the most impactful. Each one is used to execute the changes that needed to occur in every part of America to realize the dream of "an oasis of freedom and justice."

In order to further supplement his objective of challenging the views of the colored victims of oppression, Dr. King incorporated the very eloquent diction required for a pastor such as himself. In his speech, he delivers one such line of eloquence, “that the momentous decree came as a great beacon of hope to the Negro slaves,” speaking about the Emancipation Proclamation. Using these grand words such as “momentous” and “beacon”, Dr. King defies the views of society that dub African Americans lazy or uneducated. By behaving and speaking in an educated manner, he is also challenging social views in the name of all oppressed colored people. In another excerpt of his speech, Dr. King describes "great vaults of opportunity in the nation" that had "insufficient funds" when it came to servicing the oppressed people. In the same manner, the use of educated diction such as “insufficient” and “great” rather than other, more common words, helps to drive his point home as he is a living breathing example of a great man who was oppressed by the "chains of discrimination." Placing himself as an example helps solidify the argument for equality in the name of oppressed African Americans nationwide.

To further demonstrate Dr. King’s use of literary terms, he utilizes extended metaphors as a way to motivate, inspire, and add emphasis on the issues being addressed. One problem which “Negros” were suffering from was that “America has given the Negro people a bad check, check which has come back marked ‘insufficient’ funds.” Dr. King uses this explicit metaphor as a way to get his point across about the lack of Civil rights. This bank metaphor is utilized to convey indirectly how America was lacking equality and how the colored victims of oppression did not obtain the same freedoms as Whites. Dr. King also provides another extended metaphor to his “I Have a Dream” speech to show power, intelligence, and a sense of understanding to his attentive audience. He states that "the whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.” In this extended metaphor of weather, he illustrates the day when the demands were met when he says “a bright day of justice.” King's use of extended metaphor accentuates the authenticity of the movement, making it a movement that cannot be manipulated and that must be achieved through the acquirements of human and equal rights.

Throughout Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech, allusions are used increase his credibility as a speaker to the people facing racial oppression in time. When Dr. King mentions the “sweltering summer [and] invigorating autumn,” he shows how educated he is by using a reference of the Shakespearean era. In prior years seasons were used to represent emotions at events. By including “summer,” Dr. King is referring to a bright and youthful time as opposed to when he mentions “autumn” in which King is referring to the death of an era. Likewise, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. embeds the constitution by stating “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.” In doing so, MLKJ highlights his prior knowledge on the nation’s greatest documents showing he is both informative and reliable.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s speech establishes chronological order throughout its delivery to contrast between those “seared” in the past by the “flames of withering injustice” and their future as “[those] who [will not] walk alone.” In his opening, King associates himself as a “Negro” who is still suffering in modern day. By referencing himself and his audience of Americans with a racial slur, he demonstrates the current state of discrimination against colored individuals. As an influential civil rights activist, King makes it clear to those listening that racial inequality is still running rampant and must come to a staggering end. Nearing his address’ end, Dr. King states that “his people… shall always march ahead.” This humanization and empowerment, through the use of his new reference, shows the positive outcome of this newly-born uprising. With a sense of order from past to present, the speech encourages change and motivation within those “robbed of their dignity.”

Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech is delivered to challenge the established views of the victims of racial oppression for equal rights.
Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” Speech Team Analyses

Group 5D

Throughout the speech, the reverend of the discriminated blacks alludes to great pieces of literature to strengthen his claims of promises of “Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” He masterfully phrases a “sweltering summer of the Negro’s . . . discontent” and demands an “invigorating autumn of freedom and equality.” He refers to Richard III lines in doing so to utilize the powerful terms of ceasing the time of oppression and allowing a term of empowering life to begin. Further into the text, Dr. King articulates an excerpt from the Bible, a holy book used for a righteous cause. “Justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream,” to shine a heavenly light upon the audience that shows that not only are the views of which he is preaching justified, but they are approved in the eyes of the Lord. Noble speaker, Dr. King, illuminates a beacon of optimism through the use of renowned works unto the outcasts he strives to free from society’s judgmental shackles.

Along the same lines, the civil rights leader employs careful word choice to further convey the “manacles of segregation.” By incorporating how the “wrongful deeds” created by “society” keep oppressed individuals from “the pursuit of happiness,” he creates a feeling of discontentment to effectively illustrate the racial discrimination occurring. Through his strong diction, the speaker is able to encourage his public sermon when he addresses the “unspeakable horrors” that remain hidden “in the valley of despair.” Dr. King’s empowering tone remains prominent throughout his speech as he purposefully utilizes phrases such as “seared flames” to demonstrate the detrimental influence of oppression and similarly portrays the “American Dream” as a “light of hope.” Likewise, he reinforces the importance of unity between “all black men as well as white men” to solidify the need for “opportunity in this nation.” Former Minister, Martin Luther King Jr., effectively delivers his speech through his well-rounded use of vocabulary in order liberate his allusive message about “freedom and [social] equality.”

Continually, King utilizes repetition to evoke a sense of intensity that ultimately urges blacks to peacefully protest against racism. Simultaneously employing anthypophora to respond to the question of when blacks will be satisfied, the speaker insists, “We can never be satisfied,” repeating this in combination with mentions of a variety of social injustices, including “police brutality” and blacks’ inability to “gain lodging in [highways’] motels . . . and [cities’] hotels.” In doing so, he accomplishes an air of command, and fosters sympathy for the unfairness of blacks’ treatment in a nation whose “self-evident . . . truths” are, perhaps, not particularly apparent. The reverend, separately, employs anaphora again in repeating “[one] hundred years later.” This is done after the discussion of Lincoln’s “Emancipation Proclamation . . . [five] score years ago” to emphasize the passage of time and present its relevance; despite one hundred years having passed, “the Negro . . . still . . . finds himself an exile in his own land.” Dr. King’s employment of repetition, altogether, stresses the amount of time since slaves were declared free and adds an atmosphere of urgency to encourage blacks “to make real the promises of democracy.”

By incorporating metaphors, moreover, Dr. King is able to magnify the injustice that is forced upon his race. He fills his speech with comparisons between a stronghold white society bullying the weak and willful black brotherhood. The emphasis placed on the hate towards his people is expressed clearly enough for them to recognize the “manacles of segregation and chains of discrimination.” He paints a picture of how, in his eyes, America stands on “quicksands of racial injustice.” Correspondingly, his view is parallel to the perspective of his “brotherhood,” which lives in a “dark and desolate valley of segregation.” In describing America’s own “staggered winds of police brutality,” he explicitly gives his audience an understanding of what blacks’ society has faced. He describes how they wake up to see that their “checks . . . [have] come back marked ‘insufficient funds’” even though they were all “guaranteed . . . unalienable rights.” This evokes the memory of how, in colonial America, blacks fought for the same cause. In the end, the inspirational preacher encourages the afflicted to not conform to the “sweltering heat of oppression,” for it can “be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.”

In his empowering address, Dr. King creates a sense of hope that spurs blacks to “never be satisfied with the heat of injustice.”
When using anaphora, Dr. King emphasizes on the problems the black community is facing and immediate solutions they require. He elaborates on how “now is the time” to make changes, as well as how it has been “one hundred years” and there has been no shift in societal views. With the repetition of these phrases those who are listening feel empowered and become more aware of the injustice and discrimination they are being faced with. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr uses this method to ensure that his message is heard by the thousands of listeners, and to highlight on the importance of what he is preaching.

Moreover, Dr. King’s credibility appeals to all the people in the crowded with the references to historical figures. Using logos from the signed “Emancipation Proclamation” was the historical time of Abraham Lincoln, a time of hardship for many Negros slaves that had to suffer under harsh conditions. Dr. King had brought about it to illustrate its significance and to imply that in our present time we should reach for the equality among all humans. A time that applies to the present time and “it would be a fatal moment for the nation to overlook this urgency of the moment.” Abraham Lincolns speech gave hope to the Negros that slavery would end, and by addressing it Dr. King similarly indulge for “all of god’s children.” “A dream that was to prosper and in the time that dream starting singing to the audience. A while after was a well-known document known as the “Deceleration of Independence” was signed. The document that allowed freedom of many and Negros had the right to vote, become a citizen, and bear arms. Henceforth was the change of social reform of the nation into a more equilibrium state with racial equality. The white and blacks were an alliance to finally sharing a welcoming hand.

In addition to Dr. King’s use of seasonal symbolism, inspired by Richard the Third, he alludes to significant documents in American history. The Emancipation Proclamation was declared upon the thousands of spectators present, whom were of ancestry to the Negro slaves and supporters of racial equality. By referencing this, he reminds the American society that the oppression of the black community’s should have been terminated the moment it was signed. This document that marked the supposed freedom of the black community was infused in Dr. King’s message as a wakeup call to evoke a shift and to break the chains of discrimination. Later, the Declaration of Independence was presented due to its address of “…all men…[being] guaranteed the “unalienable rights” of “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”” In a purposeful manner the document is mentioned as a correction to the corruption of the time’s politics. The direct reference further supports his belief due to the value it holds and its credibility. Dr. King successfully constructs a powerful message in using documents of great meaning in hopes of eliminating the injustice and maltreatment to blacks.

Alluding to the “sweltering summer” and “invigorating autumn” marks a metaphorical end to suffering, and a beginning of hope. Dr. Martin Luther King employs metaphors to powerfully instill the idea of a "nation of racial equality” within the minds of the listeners of his speech. By referring to justice as a "cashed check," Martin Luther King explains that the Negro people were given a "bad check... marked 'insufficient funds.'” This relatable yet empowering metaphor latches on to the souls of his followers and supporters to emphasize his message. Dr. King further describes this inexorable injustice by accounting the "storms of persecution" and "winds of police brutality." The orator is making sure he reaches out to every last individual left "battered" from the metaphorical surges. In using these compelling metaphors, Dr. King is fruitful in riling up his supporters to take action in his movement for civil rights.

Likewise, the speaker employs, “sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation” to emphasize pathos and stir the emotions in the audience and create a feeling of hurt towards the black community that has been facing discrimination.
Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” Speech Team Analyses

Group 5F

Martin Luther King Jr., expertly integrates the use of anaphora when publicly delivering his speech in order to accentuate significant areas in his argument. Directly addressing a critical time change, the speaker targets the Emancipation Proclamation and its impact on society “[o]ne hundred years later,” when “the Negro still is not free.” By further highlighting the passing of time, he emphasizes how “now is the time” and “[they] can never be satisfied.” In doing so, the orator empowers his audience metaphorically to remain optimistic towards “the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, [transferring] into an oasis of freedom and justice.”

Expertly employing metaphors in his speech, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., exemplifies the injustice brought forth upon Negroes. Asserting that, "Negro people have been given a bad check [that] has [been marked] 'insufficient funds'", Dr. King open the eyes of discriminated blacks to "the fierce urgency of Now". He gives the audience a chance at the reality of what they're facing is. By stating that "nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning" Martin Luther King Jr. creates an air of hope. He wants the segregated blacks to know that their "sweltering summer" will soon come to an end. Later the speaker continues to state that the "Negroes have been veterans of creative suffering" but should go back to their homes "knowing that somehow the situation can and will be changed". The speaker shows the audience that the end of racial oppression will come with its "invigorating autumn of freedom and equality". Dr. King motivates and gives hope to unjustly treated blacks with his powerful inspirational words.

Dr. Kings use of imagery helps the reader picture the hardships endured by African-Americans and dramatizes the issue of discrimination. King compares segregation to manacles and chains that "... sadly cripple ...," the "... life of the Negro." These words help the reader picture discrimination for what it truly is, an immobilizing shackle that was devastating the life of the African-American. King also used imagery to describe the social situation at the time as a "... quicksand" of racial injustice "..." while a more promising future filled with equality was compared to a " ... solid rock of brotherhood. " Kings imagery effectively helps the reader create a mental picture that allows him to fulfill his agenda, which is to persuade the American society to overcome discrimination and oppression.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. uses imagery to paint a portrait for the reader of the hardships endured by African Americans, similarly he discusses the adversity imposed on African Americans and builds his credibility by recounting his experiences with the matter. Utilizing ethos, Dr. King mentions, “[the Negro] finds himself an exile in his own land,” demonstrating how some of the people languished by discrimination feel and also how he, as a black male, relates to the struggles due to the experience of racial injustice in his own life. Likewise, the speaker includes, “[we] can never be satisfied as long as our children are robbed their dignity by signs stating: “For Whites Only,” to exhibit the prejudice he has witnessed while also inferring that these horrible acts of racial discrimination must not be continued in future generations. While the speaker expresses the overall struggles and hardships endured by the black community, he still focuses on the fact that “we must not be guilty of the wrongful deeds,” to mollify the audience and demonstrate that riots and assaults will not result in true peace. In essence, Dr. King uses his own experiences with discrimination to build his credibility and demonstrate to the audience that only through peace will there be racial justice between all men.

While ethos mollifies Dr. King's audience, pathos motivates every comrade in the fight for civil rights to rest assured in the belief that change will soon come in the legal system of the United States of America. Through the declaration that "the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is ....freedom and equality", Dr. King allows his crowd to freely rally in their shared passion and anger. Moreover, with phrases like "their [the white citizens'] destiny is tied up with our [the black citizens'] destiny", Dr. King speaks a whole new truth that gives value to those who were deemed worthless by societal racism. In short, the humble pastor's speech grasped emotive language and utilized it to share common ground with every oppressed black, and move possible allies to see blacks as beings that experience pain and degradation and deserve liberty. Not only do pathos humanize the cause for equality, but it also champions the belief that "now is the time to rise from the dark."

While using pathos, Dr. King was able inspired his audience, along with bring aspiration to those who were deprived of happiness and joy by this on-going predication of racial discrimination. On the other hand, the speaker's effective use of allusion helps his audience understand the importance of change needed for Negroes, who were experiencing great misfortunes like segregation. When Martin Luther King states, “a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today signed the Emancipation Proclamation” he amplifies this significant event that impacted the nation, which was ultimately the stepping-stone to altering the way people treated Negroes. Furthermore, when Dr. King announced “the magnificent words of...Declaration of Independence” he creates a sense of realization that people were violating and disrespecting the rules of the “Declaration of Independence” which promised “all men, [including blacks], unalienable Rights' After all, why would people disobey the greats of America, who were the key components of the creation and development of the “New World”.

Dr. Martin Luther King Junior mollifies and motivates his audience of discriminated blacks and allies to band together in peace.