

# student activity 1

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Hero: The Boy From Troy**

After reading the following excerpt from John Lewis' speech from the March on Washington from August 28, 1963, answer the questions below.

“To those who have said, ‘Be patient and wait,’ we have long said that we cannot be patient. We do not want our freedom gradually, but we want to be free now! We are tired. We are tired of being beaten by policemen. We are tired of seeing our people locked up in jail over and over again. And then you holler, ‘Be patient.’ How long can we be patient? We want our freedom and we want it now. We do not want to go to jail. But we will go to jail if this is the price we must pay for love, brotherhood, and true peace.”

1. What words/ideas are repeated in this section of the speech? How do you think that makes the speech stronger or weaker?

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2. Are there certain words or phrases that you can almost hear being said louder or softer than others? Which words? Why?

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3. Do you think this section of the speech could apply to other issues in today's world? Why or why not?

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# student activity 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Speech Performance

Choose one of the speech excerpts below to study and present to the class.

Be sure to write down why you chose it and any other additional notes for your presentation.

Option	Speech
1	<b>Winston Churchill, 1940, "We Shall Fight on the Beaches"</b> "We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender."
2	<b>Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 1963, "I Have a Dream"</b> "I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal' ... I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."
3	<b>Barack Obama, 2004, Democratic National Convention keynote address</b> "There's not a liberal America and a conservative America; there's the United States of America. There's not a Black America and white America and Latino America and Asian America; there's the United States of America ... We are one people, all of us pledging allegiance to the stars and stripes, all of us defending the United States of America. In the end, that's what this election is about. Do we participate in a politics of cynicism, or do we participate in a politics of hope?"
4	<b>Malala Yousafzai, 2014, Nobel Peace Prize Speech</b> "Why is it that countries which we call 'strong' are so powerful in creating wars but so weak in bringing peace? Why is it that giving guns is so easy but giving books is so hard? Why is it that making tanks is so easy, but building schools is so difficult?... So let us bring equality, justice and peace for all. Not just the politicians and the world leaders, we all need to contribute. Me. You. It is our duty. So we must work ... and not wait. I call upon my fellow children to stand up around the world. Dear sisters and brothers, let us become the first generation to decide to be the last. The empty classrooms, the lost childhoods, wasted potential – let these things end with us."

Which speech are you choosing? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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# student activity 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Speech Performance Checklist

It's time for you to rehearse the speech you have chosen before sharing it with your class. Use the performance checklist to add physical and vocal elements to make your speech more interesting.

- Articulate:** speaking clearly
- Projection:** speaking loud enough to be heard
- Pace:** how fast or slow you are speaking
- Feelings:** communicate the appropriate feelings to the audience with your face and voice
- Gestures:** using body (hand and arm) movements to convey greater meaning to certain parts of the text
- Focus:** making eye contact with your audience  
*(it's okay to look just over their heads if it's too hard to look into their faces)*
- Posture:** feet flat on the floor; don't wander while you are speaking, choose to move during specific moments.
- Intention (for older students):** choose verbs to inform why and how you speak certain parts of the text. (Ex: *beg, inform, persuade, convince, entertain, scare, inspire*)

**Also consider:** Make notes on your speech; highlight or circle feeling words and repetitive/contrasting words.

**Ask yourself:** How can you make those words stand out to your audience? When can you use gestures or movement to draw attention to certain words or phrases?

**Use the space below to write down any ideas or notes.**  
Feel free to mention things you liked from your classmates' performances as well!

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