

MVC'S 14TH ANNUAL
CELEBRATION

MORENO
VALLEY
COLLEGE

FRIDAY,
JANUARY 22, 2027
8 AM

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

At the Crossroads: Chaos or Community?
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Enter to Win a Cash Scholarship

Deadline: November 16, 2026 by 11:59 pm



WIN A SCHOLARSHIP

VISIT [MVC.EDU/MLK](https://mvc.edu/mlk)



MVC Students: Speech & Spoken Word • **High School Students:** Essay Response
Enter through November 16, 2026 by 11:59 pm

Moreno Valley Conference & Recreation Center • 14075 Frederick St., Moreno Valley, CA 92553

Riverside Community College District is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation to all District programs and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the program/event organizer, Shantine Alex at (951) 571-6159 by January 12. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

SCHOLARSHIP



ELIGIBILITY

Val Verde and Moreno Valley unified school districts high school students

RESPONSE FORMAT

Respond to the prompt with a 750 to 1,250 word essay, typed, with citations in MLA format. Include one extra line between paragraphs and use quotation marks for titles.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Complete the [scholarship application form](#). Paste your typed response into the response form fields. Special formatting will be lost (italics, underline). Include references in MLA format in the Works Cited field. Do not include your name or a heading in your essay response.

\$500 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Acceptance requires attendance to the MLK Scholarship Breakfast event. Four total scholarship awards will be granted.

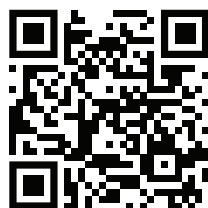
DEADLINE

November 16 by 11:59 pm

READ THE SPEECH



APPLY



PROMPT SUMMARY

Full prompt on application form

AT THE CROSSROADS: CHAOS OR COMMUNITY?

In 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. asked, "Where do we go from here?" In his address and final book, *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?*, King acknowledged the progress of the Civil Rights Movement while emphasizing that the work was far from complete. Despite landmark victories, poverty, unequal schools, housing discrimination, economic injustice, and limited access to opportunity remained. Before deciding where to go next, King argued that we must first "honestly recognize where we are now."

Nearly six decades later, that question remains. Have we progressed, remained stagnant, or moved backward—and who gets to define what progress means?

ESSAY RESPONSE

This is a brief overview of the essay prompt. The full context, prompt and requirements are provided on the application.

In a 750–1,250 word essay, thoughtfully respond to the theme At the Crossroads: Chaos or Community? Consider:

- **King's Context:** What was happening in America in 1967 that led Dr. King to ask, "Where do we go from here?" What progress had been achieved, and what challenges remained?
- **Where We Are Today:** Nearly six decades later, what does "here" mean today? What progress has been made, what challenges remain, and how did we arrive at this moment?
- **Defining Progress:** What does progress mean to you? Who or what should determine whether change represents progress, stagnation, or regression?
- **Choosing the Path:** Where should we go from here? What responsibility do individuals, communities, institutions, and leaders have in shaping our path toward chaos or community?

Your essay should go beyond summary, consider differing perspectives, connect Dr. King's ideas to the world today, and develop a thoughtful, well-supported vision for the path forward. Draw from your experiences, observations, education, community, or what you have learned from others. Most importantly, we want to hear your voice.

At the crossroads before us, what will we choose—and where do we go from here?

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT MVC.EDU/MLK

All applications for financial assistance programs (i.e. student loans, work compensation, grants, scholarships, special funds, subsidies, prizes, etc.) will be considered by the Riverside Community College District without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies or practices: District Compliance Officer, 3801 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501, or (951) 222-8039.