

Martin Luther King Jr. Resources from the Kennedy Library Website

High School Grades

Photos



June 22, 1963

[Dr. King and other civil rights leaders with Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson.](#)



August 28, 1963

[Dr. King speaking at the March on Washington.](#)



August 28, 1963

[President Kennedy and Vice President Johnson in the Oval Office with Dr. King and other leaders of the March on Washington.](#)

Letters and Telegrams

Examine [a selection of messages from Dr. King to President Kennedy and White House staff](#) in the online exhibit, *Leaders in the Struggle for Civil Rights*.

Explore a selection of telegrams and letters from and about Dr. King in the microsite [1963: The Struggle for Civil Rights](#).

Note particularly the “Project C,” “March on Washington,” and “The Bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church” sections. The “Bombing” section includes [audio excerpts of Dr. King opening a September 19, 1963 meeting between King, other civil rights leaders, and President Kennedy](#).

Senator Robert F. Kennedy speech on April 4, 1968 announcing the death of Dr. King

Read and listen to the statement made by [Senator Robert F. Kennedy announcing the news of the assassination of Dr. King](#) to listeners during a presidential campaign speech in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 4, 1968. The transcript page includes a link to an audio clip of the statement.

Kennedy Library Forum: “On Kennedy and King”

This [transcript](#) of a June 11, 2003 forum presented at the Kennedy Library on the 40th anniversary of President Kennedy’s “Address to the Nation on Civil Rights” includes a discussion of the relationship between President Kennedy and Dr. King, and the civil rights milestones of 1963. It was moderated by journalist Tom Wicker and included the historian Taylor Branch and Roger Wilkins, who had a long career in public affairs (working in both the Kennedy and Johnson administrations) and journalism.

Kennedy Library Forum: “Fiftieth Anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom”

A Kennedy Library forum, held on April 18, 2013, commemorated the 1963 March on Washington and featured a panel including historians Clayborne Carson and Peniel Joseph, civil rights leader Elaine Jones, Kennedy administration official Harris Wofford, and veteran journalist Callie Crossley. A [video and transcript](#) of this panel is available on the Library’s website.

The forum concluded with a [keynote and conversation with Congressman John Lewis](#), whose book *March (Book 1)* had recently been published.

Oral Histories

The Kennedy Library houses the transcripts of many oral histories. Although Dr. King’s oral history transcript about Kennedy has not been digitized, our website includes other digitized oral history transcripts with remarks regarding Dr. King.

Burke Marshall, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice (1961-1964), provided this 1964 oral history (separated into five parts). Parts 1 and 5 make several references to Dr. King.

[Part 1](#) focuses on the Freedom Rides. Note particularly pages 19-32 discussing Dr. King’s arrival in Montgomery, AL.

[Part 5](#) focuses on the Birmingham Campaign and other civil rights events in 1963. Note particularly pages 95-103 regarding Dr. King and the Birmingham Campaign:

To search for other digitized oral histories transcripts, visit [this page](#).

Lesson Plan: “What If Laws Are Unjust?”

Though [this lesson plan](#) is noted for middle school audiences, it can easily be adapted for high school audiences. In this lesson, students read and analyze segregation ordinances, and learn how Dr. King and other civil rights activists challenged these unjust laws through peaceful protest and civil disobedience during the 1963 civil rights campaign in Birmingham, Alabama. The lesson highlights the vital role that young people played in the campaign.