

## Close Reading Spotlight – MLK’s “I Have a Dream” Answer Key

### Part 1: Understanding Purpose

1. *Dr. King is sharing his vision of a just and equal future, where suffering and injustice are replaced by fairness and unity.*
2. *He uses religious language to connect emotionally with his audience and to present the Civil Rights Movement as a moral, almost sacred cause. Many in his audience were people of faith, especially in the Black church community.*

### Part 2: Analyzing Tone

3. **Circle: Hope, Inspiration, Urgency**
4. *Example: “This is our hope. This is the faith...” – These lines reinforce a hopeful tone and show that despite hardship, King believes in a better future.*

### Part 3: Evaluating Impact

5. *His audience included civil rights activists, political leaders, and the American public. This passage speaks powerfully to people seeking justice and unity, using uplifting imagery.*
6. *It inspired many Americans to support civil rights legislation, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, by framing equality as part of a shared national dream.*