

Minor 2.4 (rewrite)
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In the speech “I Have a Dream,” Dr. Martin Luther King employs anaphora in many places. By continuously repeating particular phrases, King reminds his audience of the continuous oppression the blacks faced and brings forth the hope for equality, and thus appeals to his audience to stand up for their rights and justice. The first instance of this appears in paragraph 3. By repeating the phrase “one hundred years later” at the beginning of every sentence, King emphasizes the long time people of color had been waiting for their promised liberation according to the Emancipation Proclamation. During that one hundred years, however, no change had taken place. The more times King repeats, the more likely it will be that the audience will feel frustration, rage, and longing for relief. In this way, King aims to bring forth the conscious awareness of the undesirable inequality his audience was facing. The next, and perhaps most famous, example in the speech starts in paragraph 12, where the phrase “I have a dream” is repeated for six times. Through this repetition, King vividly depicts all the promising scenes that will happen only when the nation has fulfilled its promise of nationwide equality. By addressing common concerns like children and future (“I have a dream that my four little children will ... their character”). King attempts to create empathy in his audience and thus turn his dreams into everyone’s dream. Therefore, he not only gives hope to the audience but also encourages them to fight for brighter futures. Thus, through his use of anaphora, he walks his audience through their historical struggle to the possibility of emancipation, urging his audience to defend their own liberty.