Keegan Neal

English 1302

Professor Palacios

11 September 2018

Analysis Essay

The first month of 1929 was born a revolutionary man who would later on dramatically change the course of our history in the United States of America. ­­Martin Luther King, Jr. was head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He later received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his, “I have a dream” speech. Among many motivational and inspirational speeches, King delivered his “I’ve been to the mountaintop” speech exactly one day before his assassination. In this speech, King starts by thanking the audience for being there to listen to his words. Once King starts his speech, he explains to the audience that “If I were standing at the beginning of time, with … a general and panoramic view of the whole of human history up to now” he would choose to live his life just a few more years to see what is to come in the future. King then describes that the country is doing very poorly in that time and people all across the world are rallying to revolutionize the way people look at colored people. After King talks about the rest of the world, he talks about all people being unified under God as his children. King then, aggressively switches the topic to bring light to this dark topic. King explains how lucky he and his people are to be where they are in the world. He goads the audience to protest peacefully by halting the buying and selling of goods from companies that don’t support the equality of man or to march downtown to tell the mayor their concerns. King concludes his speech by preaching a story from the bible and compares that story to a story of a letter from a white high school female who expressed compassion and regard to King. This speech is a great example of how King was able to influence so many people with emotion (pathos), authority (ethos), and reasoning (logos).

Works Cited

King Jr., Martin Luther. “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop.” American Rhetoric, <https://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkivebeentothemountaintop.htm>. Accessed 6 September 2018.

“Martin Luther King Jr. Biography.” Biography, 18 Jan. 2018, <https://www.biography.com/people/martin-luther-king-jr-9365086>. Accessed 11 September 2018.