

Activity 1

The class is broken up into 10 groups of 10. Each group will choose one of the following topics to discuss.

Topic 1: Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Inscription Changed

Recently the National Park Service announced that it will remove the inscription from the MLK Jr. Memorial and replace it with a full quotation from the civil rights leader. The memorial's architect says it will destroy the monument. But others have said that the paraphrase didn't reflect King's words accurately and made him sound arrogant.

The current inscription is "I was a drum major for justice, peace and righteousness."

The full quote is "Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter."

Replacing the inscription will involve cutting into the monument, removing a block of granite and replacing it with a slightly different color.

What do you think? Is the correction the right decision?

Topic 2: Is MIT a True Meritocracy?

The Institute Diversity Summit will be held on January 30, 2013. The theme is "Meritocracy and Inclusion at MIT: Principles or Practices?"

Is MIT a true meritocracy? What is a meritocracy? The definitions below are from Webster.

1. a system in which the talented are chosen and moved ahead on the basis of their achievement
2. leadership selected on the basis of intellectual criteria

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