Third Place Winner Rogelio Castaneda Sam Houston High School, Senior

"The Dream"

The impact a generation can make on the future of the world is phenomenal. The ideas that certain individuals share can make a difference that lasts forever. Martin Luther King Jr. was this individual. He was a man with the power to inspire an entire nation to become truly free. The present state in which we live in is a reflection to what he did and all he stood for.

Martin Luther King, Jr. helped African Americans receive their true freedom and at the same time he helped all other minorities receive their freedom. The only reason I am in this marvelous country is because of his efforts to eradicate racism and breakdown the huge barrier it had made. The breakthroughs that we made during the Civil Rights Movement resulted in a future, our present, completely different than it would have been if events would have taken any other course. Although not all negativity was vanquished, their efforts minimized them to the lowest they have ever been. Making a difference usually results in a positive shift for nations and allows them to progress further than before. It is an incredible phenomenon when people stand up to the wrongs of the world and change them for the greater good. There aren't many people in history that made difference that changed the world drastically. In fact they are numbered. Dr. King was of these selected few. He is among others like Jesus, Galileo, Socrates, Aristotle and Gandhi. It would have been a unique honor to live in the time of any of these great men. They are universally well known and their teachings are followed and studied in all parts of the globe.

I am living the dream, the dream of my parents, to succeed and truly be happy regardless of where I came from or where my roots are set. The dream of a child to exceed all expectations and reach the stars; the dream of a man who fought all his life to change was inconceivably wrong; the dream of a nation to spread its freedom out as far as it possibly could; the dream of a people to change the future of our planet.