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Metaphorical effectiveness: "I have a dream"

By Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

On August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King stood before a crowd of thousands and delivered a speech like no other. He pours out his heart and soul and delivers with raw emotion. King used various elements to make his speech effective, one being metaphors. By using metaphors, King creates an image in the people's mind, helps build sympathy and compassion towards his cause and shed new light on something others might not be able to see. King's use of metaphors not only made his speech effective but iconic and it speaks to not only one audience. King's use of imagery helped him reach more than just one audience. His speech was written to empower and encourage people of color, but King used words like "oppressed" to encourage the idea that more than one person is being affected by this issue. Metaphors helped give his speech color and personality. For example, in the twentieth stanza, it states, "the sweltering summer of the negroes legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality." This quote helps make the audience feel his words rather than just hear them. Instead of just saying that colored people are angry Another example is in stanza six, "But we refuse to believe the bank of justice is bankrupt." This quote helps with the renewal of words instead of using old ineffective words. King's metaphors help the audience relate to the struggle without actually going through it. He captivates the hearts and minds through his words and wisdom and that's why his speech was effective.