



The Seven Project is a multimedia, speaker-driven school assembly. The Seven Project Assemblies entertain and captivate audiences all across the United States. Seven addresses real-life issues and situations students face every day. The Seven Project Discussion Guides culminate the Seven Project experience by creating intensified discussions about student life.

The activities and discussions in these guides are designed for use in single classroom settings or as entire school or community-wide campaigns. The Seven Project offers these guides as tools for use at the discretion of local school educators and administrators in part or entirety. The Seven Project and your school: *building students' hope...one issue at a time.*

## DREAMS

*For Grades 6-12. Students will study the lives of historical figures who inspired generations by accomplishing their individual dreams. Students will begin to think about making dreams become reality.*

### Objectives:

- Be inspired by others who accomplished their dreams.
- Identify dreams and strategize how to make each dream part of a life plan.

### Materials Needed:

- Copies of the *Dreams*, *What About Dreams?* and *Dreams Essay* for each student.

### Discussion:

- 1) What issues/messages from The Seven Project School Assembly stood out to you the most? Why?  
\*Transition: *"In our classroom time today, (principal's name) and I felt it was important that we follow-up on one of the topics: dreams, since this is something we deal with at our school."*
- 2) Is having a life dream important?
- 3) How can having a life dream shape your life?
- 4) What are some life dreams in this class? Why does your dream interest you?  
Where did it begin?
- 5) What are reasons some people reach their dreams and others do not?
- 6) How can we avoid some of those obstacles?  
\*Distribute *Dreams*, allowing students time to read each story.
- 7) Which person's story inspired you most? Why?
- 8) Why didn't that person quit?
- 9) How can having a life dream help us?
- 10) What can you do now to start living your dream?

**Extensions and Adaptations:**

- Dream Essay. Have students write a 2 or 3-page essay on the dream they want to achieve. A list of essay guideline questions is provided.
- Make a dream come true. Select some of the essays, and bring a professional from those dream fields to speak to the class. Allow the chosen essay writers one-on-one time with the speaker.

**Relevant National Standards**

McREL establishes the following National Standards at [www.mcrel.org](http://www.mcrel.org)

**Thinking and Reasoning**

- Understands and applies basic principles of logic and reasoning
- Applies basic trouble-shooting and problem-solving techniques
- Applies decision making techniques

**Life Skills**

- Working with others: Contributes to the overall effort of a group
- Working with others: Displays effective interpersonal communications skills

**Language Arts – Listening and Speaking**

- Demonstrates competence in speaking and listening as tools
- Students will use descriptive language that clarifies and enhances ideas
- Students will use a variety of sentence structures to express expanded ideas



## Dreams

### John F. Kennedy

In 1943, his PT boat was rammed and sunk by a Japanese destroyer. Despite serious injury, JFK led the survivors through perilous waters to safety. JFK was the first Roman Catholic President of the United States. As such, he often faced harsh criticism and bigotry. Following a failed attempted overthrow of Fidel Castro in Cuba, Kennedy and the United States was brought to the brink of World War III; the Cuban missile crisis. Before his presidency was cut short by an assassin's bullet, JFK made a statement in a speech that summarized his DREAM; for civil rights, peaceful diplomacy, space exploration and America as a whole: *"Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."*

### Mother Teresa of Calcutta

She was a teacher at St. Mary's High School in Calcutta, India, and loved her work. Outside the convent, however, she glimpsed the extreme poverty of India. She was trained as a teacher, and had no funds to help the poverty-stricken. India was packed full with people; dirty, smelly, sick, destitute, diseased people. There was barely room to breathe. Caring for these people seemed impossible. Nevertheless, she continued to DREAM of devoting her life to caring for and improving the life of such people. Volunteers signed up. Financial support began to appear. Today, thanks to Mother Teresa's DREAM; there are relief operations of her order in India, Africa, Asia, Latin America, Italy, Great Britain, Ireland, and the U.S. She dreamed of helping people. She did it.

### Martin Luther King, Jr.

He was born in Atlanta, Georgia and grew up in the segregated south. Through his education, he developed strong convictions and equally strong public speaking skills. He felt the weight of responsibility when it came to fighting racism in the southern U.S. Everywhere African-Americans went, they were treated as less than people; separate restrooms, separate drinking fountains, separate seating...often, African-Americans were banned from public buildings because their skin was brown. The Ku Klux Klan was a powerful force to be reckoned with, as was the deep-seeded hatred of African-Americans at the time. His home was bombed. Even so, MLK organized and led peaceful demonstrations, "Whites-only" city bus boycotts, marches and other peaceful protests; some of which were met with attack dogs and high-pressure water hoses. His DREAM endured. His DREAM, that his *"...four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character"* began to become a reality in 1964, when he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for helping to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

### Neil Armstrong

Following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963, America's space exploration program was in great jeopardy. That didn't stop test pilot and navy combat pilot, Neil Armstrong. He had flown as a pilot in the Korean War. The U.S. and Soviet Union were locked in a cold war of words. Each nation was racing the clock (and each other) to be the first to land on the moon. Armstrong was one of two civilians trained as astronauts by NASA; the other, test pilot Elliot See, was killed in a plane crash while training for the Gemini 9 mission. A short circuit in Armstrong's Gemini 8 mission forced he and his crew to make an emergency re-entry. None of those chaotic events stopped Armstrong's DREAM. At 10:56 p.m. Eastern Time on July 20, 1969, the feet of mission Commander Neil Armstrong became the first to walk on the dust of the moon's surface. His DREAM allowed him to become the first person ever to walk on another world. At that moment, he verbalized his DREAM: *"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."*



## What About Dreams?

### Why Dreams are Important...

- Dreams help bring value and meaning to your life.
- Dreams bring purpose to everything you do.
- Dreams motivate us to do what we can with what we have in order to achieve them.

### How Do Dreams Begin?

#### *Your interests.*

What are your personal likes and dislikes?

#### *Your values.*

What do you care deeply about?

#### *The right stuff.*

What qualifications are necessary to achieve the dream?

#### *Get skills.*

What are your strengths and weaknesses? What about you needs improvement?

#### *The brains.*

What education is necessary for your dream?

#### *Sacrifice.*

How much are you willing to give up for your dream?

#### *Be the expert.*

Become more and more knowledgeable about your dream.

#### *Boxed in.*

Surround yourself with people who will support and encourage you.

#### *For better, for worse.*

Commit yourself to make it through tough times.

#### *Destiny.*

Remember your life is not accident; it has purpose.



## Dreams Essay

In a two to three-page paper, write about the dream you want to achieve. Use the following questions to help build your paper:

- *What is your dream? Explain it as if no one has ever heard of it before; go into detail.*
- *Has anyone else done this before? If so, what is some of its history?*
- *Who/what experience/event inspired you?*
- *What qualifications are necessary to achieve this dream?*
- *What are your strengths and weaknesses? What about you needs improvement?*
- *How much are you willing to give up for your dream?*
- *What are the first steps you can take to make your dream reality?*