

11th Grade – Grand Prize
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The Lone Wolf Who Does Not Follow the Pack

“The world lies with disciplined non-conformists who are dedicated to justice, peace, and brotherhood,” exclaimed Dr. Martin Luther King. These powerful words truly graced the world. Dr. King is a glorified idol in the eyes of the American people for his exceptional efforts in the Civil Rights Movement. His objective was to unify the entire country. This quote sends my mind into numerous different directions, and choosing someone who embodied the meaning of the quote took careful consideration. Lupe Fiasco exemplifies Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s words because of his labors to liberate the minds of young people and his disregard of conformity.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s quote exhilarates several thoughts in my brain. His words are expressing that without the courageous individuals who have the desire to promote their outlook, our world would never make any progress. The world in which we live survives off conformity. There is an abundant amount of people in our society who are not willing to think for themselves. They depend on the trends of the community to guide them and refuse to speak up for their beliefs. Tragically, there is an epidemic that has set its merciless sights on young America. Violence, drugs, and the exploitation of women is currently being seen as a common way of life. In addition, the significance of education is rapidly losing its value because it has been replaced by the yearning to be on the street. As a teenager of modern day society, I constantly witness my peers conforming to these dangerous standards just to receive what they believe is acceptance.

Most music artists, rappers in particular, provide encouragement to the hazardous lifestyle that is unsuitably described as “cool” by our nation’s future leaders. During this time of havoc, one man steps above it all and rejects the option to conform. When I look at rapper, Lupe Fiasco, I see hope for my generation. His style is so different from the ordinary music being overplayed today. He does not degrade women in his songs. In fact, he did not even want to become a rapper because he was so appalled at how women were relentlessly belittled. While other rappers are feeding the mind of our youth with fantasy tales of guns and murder, Lupe Fiasco is educating his listeners of actual disasters that are affecting different parts of the world. Unsurprisingly, he is not the most popular rapper. He has been accused of using “big” and “complex” words in his lyrics. His lyrics aren’t acceptable because he doesn’t use vulgarity every two seconds, but that does not obstruct him from remaining true to himself. Lupe Fiasco supports education and he is desperate for young people to realize how essential it is for their futures.

Without people like Lupe Fiasco, there would not be an alternative to conformity. There would not be a voice for the lone wolf who does not follow the pack. Our society needs more people to embrace individuality. No matter what people say about Lupe Fiasco, he has always stood his ground. He has overlooked each ignorant comment and continued to follow his heart. Lupe Fiasco is proving to the whole world that it is ok to be yourself and you do not have to conform to what you observe around you. This courageous man has made everyone that views him as a role model exceedingly proud.

Lupe Fiasco is someone that honestly touches my heart. I look up to him immensely. When I was younger I was fearful to be myself and it was a horrible feeling. However, when I get the pleasure to see people such as Lupe Fiasco in action, I have the faith that he will guide more kids who have the sentiment I once had in a positive direction. As soon as I read Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s words, my mind immediately went to Lupe Fiasco. It is so important to recognize him because he is the person we need our youth to rally behind. The hope of our world lies with his positive message.