

Exercise: Introducing Quotations

Each item below illustrates a quotation introduced two different ways. Identify the introduction you prefer and state why you prefer it.

1. A. Martin Luther King Jr. wanted to inspire his listeners to believe that they would have a better future if they did what they needed to do to fight for civil rights no matter what the cost would be to them and their families, and so he told them, "I have a dream today."

B. Martin Luther King Jr. inspired his listeners to believe in a better future by telling them, "I have a dream today."

2. A. King embraced all of America when he proclaimed, "...let [freedom] ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city...."

B. King thought it was important to refer to every part of the U.S. in his speech, because he wanted to be certain people would know that civil rights would be pursued in every corner of the land, and so he said, "...let [freedom] ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city...."

3. A. "Go back to Mississippi...knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed."

B. King inspired the crowd to continue fighting for civil rights by exhorting them to "[g]o back to Mississippi.....knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed."

4. A. Throughout his speech, King used repetition, parallelism, many other kinds of rhetorical devices, and the rhythms used by ministers in historically black churches, which were familiar to the demonstrators, such as, "So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania."

B. King embraced the demonstrators like parishioners in church by using the cadence of African-American ministers, proclaiming, "So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania."
