

YouthSpeak 2nd Place Winner - Sabrina Huang

I believe *all* of us were placed on this earth to love. To love passionately and indiscriminately. I believe we *all* were created in different colors so those differences could be celebrated, rather than scorned.

I believe *all* of us are equal; that is we all are *only* human beings. That's why it's so painful to live in a county of hate.

I am the daughter of immigrants who, driven by hope, came to America in pursuit of their dreams.

I am a woman, a Christian, a Taiwanese, but most of all an American.

Today, people in this county are trying to take away my right to be an American. What they don't realize is if they do, they are denying me an essential part of who I am. They are robbing me of *my* identity.

I am an American. And we all are Americans. But in our county, some of us cannot see that.

"I have a dream," Martin Luther King Jr. said over fifty years ago. *I* have a dream. And my dream would look like this:

Orange County would be a place without hate.

All of us would hold hands, extending our hand to those not like us, to those yearning to be free.

There would be a church next to a mosque, a Latino next to an Asian, a straight next to a gay.

Each coming day would not bring the fear of persecution for the color of our skin or the God we believe in. Instead, everyday would be a celebration of the what sets us apart, of our diversity.

Orange County would be a county of *love*.

It is in each of our hands to create a county without hate.

Let's start with our neighbors. Let's learn who they are. Though it took me this long, I am now only beginning to understand the beauty of my Jewish, my Muslim, and my homosexual friends. Let's open our hearts. Rather than closing them in fear, let's embrace one another. Though it's hard to let go of prejudice, I have started to see the world without color. And I have finally come to understand that love is freedom.

Let's stand by one another. Let's build a wall of love, a wall built on the differences which divide yet unite us in strength.

Let's be brave.

Because we *all* are beautiful. We *all* are Americans.