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“Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!”

These are the stirring words spoken by Martin Luther King as he ended his famous speech, “I Have A Dream”, during the March on Washington to stress the need for equality and freedom. “I Have a Dream” is the most famous piece of the March on Washington protest as described by David Garrow, the author of “King the March the Man the Dream” article. Garrow states that King’s “I Have a Dream” speech was initially forgotten during the Civil Rights Movement yet is not only remembered now, but also memorialized by all. This occurred due to a series of both positive and negative events that occurred immediately following March On Washington. The success of the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act, coupled with the racial tension and violence that broke out afterward, made people forget the significance of the speech. However, 50 years later, King’s speech is now considered to be one of the greatest speeches of the twentieth century. Garrow focuses on not only King’s but also other civil rights leaders’ peaceful approach to March on Washington, as well as President Kennedy’s remarkable address to announce the civil rights bill. King was deeply impressed by the Kennedy address and made sure there was no concern about disciplinary problems at this protest.

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1 Garrow, David J. "King the March the Man the Dream." American History 38, no. 3 (08, 2003): 26.

2 Garrow, David J. "King the March the Man the Dream." American History 38, no. 3 (08, 2003): 26-35.
The thesis statement is clearly stated and backed up by many different types of evidence. David Garrow’s main focus is to understand how different King’s speech appeared from inside the Civil Rights Movement during the 1960s compared to how it is understood and acknowledged by Americans today. It was a time when African Americans were still struggling to fight for equal rights, with civil rights leaders continuing to protest in different states to end segregation and bring equality to African American. The “March on Washington” was designed to force “integration in the fields of education, housing, transportation and public accommodations.” The roots of 1963 “March on Washington” stretches back to Philip Randolph, a union activist, who initiated the idea to protest for employment during early 1940s. Although this protest was cancelled, this did not stop him from trying again; just 22 years later, Randolph planned to “March on Washington” yet again and invited many other civil rights activists to join, for example Whitney Young and Martin Luther King. King was chosen to speak last during “March on Washington.” His speech “I Have a Dream” mainly focused on segregation and equality among all people; he emphasized that everyone was equal no matter what their color or racial background. However, King’s speech was overlooked because the rally was originally meant to address economic issues, not the broad issues about overall equality that he so passionately addressed. Thus, at the time, King’s speech did not necessarily address the concern of his audience. In fact, King’s “I Have a Dream” speech was not actually included in the original “March on Washington” speech list, but it was added at last minute. Since he presented last, his words were viewed more as just as a closing thought, which did not have that significant of an impact on his audience. However, as time went on, people began to recognize King’s speech from a broader perspective, and realized that the words were more profound and

3 Garrow, "King the March the Man the Dream." 27.
4 Garrow, "King the March the Man the Dream." 28.
had more meaning to it than they originally thought. Fifty years later, Garrow points out that looking at it from historical perspective, one can see that it is an important and major speech of the event. In retrospect, the impact it has on people now is far greater than it had on people back then.

The author builds his argument especially toward the end of his article. Garrow points how Kennedy’s bill, Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965, were signed into law, which completely overshadowed King’s “I Have a Dream” speech. For people in the 1960s, these laws, combined with the economic concerns addressed primarily during the “March on Washington,” were seen as far more important than King’s 16 minutes speech. However, looking at it now, one can stand back and carefully look at every event that happened and, by analyzing the speech specifically, its strong, longstanding effects are clearly highlighted. His focus on equality for all, not just about a then-current economic concern, continues to be vital and crucial for today just as it was back then; his words are always relevant and important to society.

Despite the many positive outcomes of “March on Washington,” there were negatives ones that followed, which essentially overshadowed King’s speech as well. For example, many people reacted negatively to the Voting Rights and the Civil Rights Act. African Americans believed that the government was trying to take away more of their rights, which caused African Americans to fight back. During this time, Martin Luther King said, “often in these past two years I have had to watch my dream transformed into a nightmare.” Additionally, after all those

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5 Garrow, David J. "King the March the Man the Dream." American History 38, no. 3 (08, 2003): 35.

6 Garrow, David J. "King the March the Man the Dream." American History 38, no. 3 (08, 2003): 35.
accomplishments, there was a period of regression when everything became more violent and controversial, causing the political situation to deteriorate. Thus, the speech King gave was overshadowed by all these negative actions and heavy concerns. Everything that he aimed to achieve and wanted to happen, such as nonviolence, was not happening after all; the opposite was occurring in the years following his speech. Because all of these negatives, his speech was quickly forgotten until people had a chance to look back at history, reflect, and see the importance of the speech.

After evaluating the article written by David Garrow, it is determined that the information he provides to support his claim are crucial aspects of the article. However, a few changes could have been made to improve overall thesis. The author does not analyze his thesis statement with specifics needed for the reader to understand. Instead, he immediately follows his large claim with nothing but background information about “March on Washington” and the peaceful approach; he does not focus on how different King’s speech looked from inside the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s compared to the way people see it now. The author also mentions that King’s speech did not have any impact on the people of that time. This statement is believed to be too strong; although it is more popular now, his speech did have some effect on those who heard it. After all, from this speech, King went on to continue to be a popular civil rights leader who was soon a household name to everyone during the time. Thus, the speech must have made more of a statement than the author believes. In fact, the author spends much more time discussing the overall events surround the “March on Washington” and time thereafter compared to speaking directly about Martin Luther King. It would have been more valuable to speak more about King himself, rather than spend so much time on the surrounding information. Moreover,
although the article uses pictures related to “March on Washington” that are important and have historical significance, there are far too many images than necessary for this small-sized article. Most of the pictures cover the whole page, which could easily distract the reader. Having few visuals in the article will give a better understanding on the event using words instead, keeping the reader focused on the story.\(^7\)

The author tends to target the general public as his audience, but he particularly aims his focus at younger people who did not live through the Civil Right Movement or experience it in anyway. He targets them because they do not know the true effects of “March on Washington” and Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech. The author uses persuasive reasoning to back up his claims by providing the younger people with the understanding on how different King’s speech appeared from inside the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and the way people see it now. Speculating on the audience, one can see that the author uses many images of “March on Washington” to show what happened for younger people who might not have seen any images of the March before. Also, the use of many images will help the younger audience better the main goal and the importance of the article. Hence, the author goes off track and gives a lot of background information about “March on Washington” to make sure that readers are fully aware of the events during that time, setting the stage for his thesis.

Booker T Washington was one of the most influential black educators in American History. He studied mechanical skills, farming, machinery, as well as literature and history. In 1881, he founded the Tuskegee Institute made especially for black men and women to help them develop

\(^7\) Garrow, David J. "King the March the Man the Dream." *American History* 38, no. 3 (08, 2003): 26-35.
skills and learn. He wrote a book called “Up From Slavery” to inspire blacks. Although from a surface level it may appear that both Washington and King were similar in their desire for blacks to achieve greatness, a closer look shows that this was not the case. While King strove for equality and freedom for all, Washington stressed a similar message, but wanted blacks and whites to remain isolated from each other. His “separate but equal” approach emphasized that blacks needed to better themselves first and foremost before worrying about assimilating with whites. Thus, although he strove for complete integration and equality at some point in time, he stressed that this would come with time, after blacks proved themselves to whites first. King, on the other hand, sought immediate action; unlike Washington, he was unwilling to wait for the rest of the country to “warm up” to his race; he wanted to be fully accepted as citizens and viewed on an equal playing field. Thus, although Booker T Washington was able to set the groundwork for equality by stressing the need for blacks to be all that they can and work hard, it was ultimately King who drove this point home by stressing the need to be treated as fairly as they deserve. 

In his article, “Revolution with Pen & Ink”, William C. Kashatus sheds some light on the enormous role that Thomas Paine played in the American Revolution and how he helped to instigate political revolution in America through his writing. Thomas Paine was one of the most influential writers of the 18th century. When Paine arrived in Philadelphia, he started working as an editor of the Pennsylvania Magazine. He submitted most of his articles by using pseudonyms like “Atlanticus” or “Aesop”. Kashatus points out that Congress’ greatest advocates, like

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Benjamin Franklin and Benjamin Rush, tested public opinion through Thomas Paine’s writings before making any final decision. They encouraged Paine to write his arguments in a single pamphlet called *Common Sense*. This pamphlet discussed his views concerning government, as well as the context of natural liberty, by providing a series of explanations of why monarchy is an evil institution that prevents the exercise of freedom. Kashatus says Paine used strong language in the *Common Sense* that stirred anger in his readers, inspiring them to take action against the British monarch by declaring independence. Although Paine was well known in three different countries for his political writings, his strong, radical views were not, in fact, accepted by many individuals, leaving him to be labeled as notorious.

The thesis statement that Kashatus has written in the beginning of the anecdote is clearly stated and is supported by several different types of evidence. In the article “Revolution with Pen & Ink,” Kashatus focuses on how Thomas Paine’s writing greatly influenced the American people at the time. *Common Sense*, written by Paine, is considered one of the most influential pamphlets in American history, in which “he put into words what large numbers of patriots had been thinking—that America should declare its independence from Britain by whatever means possible.”

William Kashatus quotes Thomas Paine’s *The American Crisis*, to show just how incredibly influential his words were during the roughest of times. After all, it was this book that General George Washington read to his soldiers in order to convince them to keep fighting for the cause. During the war, his Continental army was discouraged, poorly equipped, low on supplies and greatly outnumbered, which left them feeling dejected. They questioned why they were fighting in the first place and if it was truly worth the struggle. When morale was this low, George Washington read Thomas Paine’s *The American Crisis* to them as an inspiration to keep fighting.

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moving forward. Paine’s words echoed success, stating, “the summer soldiers and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but the stands it NOW, deserves the love and thanks of man and women”\(^{11}\) These words served their purpose, leaving soldiers feeling stronger and willing to continue to fight. By reading Thomas Paine’s work, the soldiers realized why and for whom they were fighting, realizing that it was all, indeed, worthwhile. Thomas Paine’s words had a lot of influence because he always expressed how he himself, along with the American people, felt about the problems they were facing. Thus, the author’s providing of this simple yet crucial anecdotes about Paine’s work further highlights just how influential he was as a writer; his words inspired many, even when they felt too discouraged to do anything.

William Kashatus also explains that Paine was so vital during this period because, through his works, he spoke about issues that others were too frightened to say. For example, the King was oppressing the colonists by placing taxes upon them that they did not support. Despite their qualms with this taxation, many colonists were too fearful to take full action or express their complaints. However, Thomas Paine was up for the challenge; he put it into words what people had been thinking, since no one else had the courage to speak against the King. Not only does he express the true feelings of the colonists, but Paine did not hold back in any way; he made sure to use strong, blunt language to point out what the King was doing wrong and provided metaphors to further illustrate his point. Using blunt language not only fully captured his emotions, but also better enabled him to resonate with the readers and help them to identify with the issues at hand. Along with identifying what the problems were in simple terms, Paine went one step further by offering solutions to the problems they faced, including how to

campaign or rally for changes. The author’s descriptions of Paine’s language style, direct quotations, and other details regarding Paine and his work further to support his own thesis on how influential Thomas Paine work was, along with how the changes he made through his writing helped lead to the revolutionary war.

After reading and analyzing the article, there are areas in which the overall article and its publication could have been improved. One way in which the article could have been improved would be with the use of more examples to further highlight Thomas Paine’s writing. While the article itself was over five pages long, there was just two short quotes directly from Paine’s writing. Since so much is discussed about the inspiring nature of his words, it would have been beneficial to read more directly from his works. In the article, the author also points out that, “Paine cared little about his appearance”. However, based on prior information from other sources, it is strongly believed that this statement is not truly accurate. Instead, Paine was known to always dress neatly and professionally. The author also is quick to point out that Paine was disliked due to his strong political statements. Again, this statement is too broad to characterize Paine, since he was described as polite and engaging, and had a strong group of close friends. Among these friends included Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, who saw him as a man with great principles.

A benefit of this article is the fact that it contains a couple of illustrations and couple of pictures that give the reader a good understanding about the appearance of Thomas Paine and his lifestyle. Besides these important pictures, however, the article also contains a lot of advertisements, which distract the reader from the overall article. Also included in the article are

12 Kashatus, William C. "Revolution with Pen & Ink.” American History 34, no. 6 (02, 2000): 54.
two mini articles about Thomas Paine, which are located in unsorted, scattered areas throughout the main article. This again, distracts the reader. Thus, this article can also be improved by having fewer visuals and more writing to keep the reader focus on the story.

Speculating on the intended audience of the article, Kashatus targeted audience is mainly the general American public. However, he specifically targets college students to spark their imagination about Thomas Paine, one of the most important figures who instigated a political revolution in America through his writing. The author adjusts his work to relate to his audience in the best way possible by finding common ground with them. In his article, Kashatus points out that Paine put into words everything that was happening in the colonies and addressed the problems through his writing. He targets younger people to show them that writing something powerful can have the ability to inspire, motivate, change minds of people and even change history, just like Thomas Paine did. Thanks to Paine’s passion for writing, he was able to put into words what everyone was aiming to achieve and told America that it should declare its independence. Similarly, through writing, one is capable of doing anything he wants and is able to share his views and passion for changing the world and making it a better place. College students are the future leaders of society and, thus, it was crucial for the author to address this crowd to assure them that speaking up, taking action, and working for change are needed for the brightest tomorrow.

As one can see, Thomas Paine was one of most significant figures in American History who played an important role in different events leading up to revolutionary war. Paine was aggressive and showed anger in his writing when addressing the British Monarch. He wanted America to declare their independence. Similarly, W.E.B. Du Bois was an American historian, civil right activist, author and editor who played a significant role trying to bring equality to
black people. His writing style was similar to Thomas Paine in that he was trying to stir anger in his readers. He went to Philadelphia to observe the conjugal condition of black households, traveling house to house, surveying each individual and combining his data after analyzing into a book called *The Philadelphia Negros*. Dubois was not prepared to wait 50 more years for equality and instead wanted equality now. In the same fashion, Paine also put into words how he felt and talked about how American should declare its independence. He was lashing out at the British King, just like Dubois targeted all the educated whites in writing for their wrong doings. The *Soul of Blacks Folk* written by Du Bois and *Common Sense* were similar in many ways by using instructional principles to represent the promise of the young nation. Du Bois made sure blacks would be mobilized right away, just like Paine who also focused to make sure Americans quickly declared their independence from the British monarch before it was too late. Thus, Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense* laid the foundation for independence and led to Du Bois’ striving for black people to obtain equal rights and freedom.

After careful analysis of both articles, one can see that each article has its strength and weaknesses. In both articles, there are areas in which the overall theme and its publication could have been improved. As far as strengths are concerned, the article "Revolution with Pen & Ink" written by William Kashatus provides key examples to support the thesis statement. He backs up his argument by quoting from Thomas Paine's work directly, along with providing valuable anecdotes highlighting his inspiring themes, to give the reader a good understanding of his work. Some of the extraneous side stories and advertisements, however, draw readers away from his article to some extent. On the other hand, the article "King the March The Man The Dream"

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written by David Garrow, is very strong by providing readers with valuable background information to set the context for the main issues discussed. However, this overload of extra information takes away from the author's overall thesis statement, thus disallowing the author to fully analyze his overall conclusions. Thus, after careful examination of both articles, it can be determined that the article by Kashatus provides a more thorough analysis of the complete themes addressed.