

Feb. 1, 2010

Notable Speeches and
Letters by African
Americans

Office of Cultural Diversity

Volume 3, Issue 6

Benjamin Banneker

Springfield Public Schools

[A Letter to Thomas Jefferson](#)

Dr. Nate Quinn, Coordinator of Cultural Diversity

Maryland, August 19, 1791

Ms. Gwen Marshall, Cultural Diversity Specialist

Mrs. Ana Perry, Cultural Diversity Specialist

Mary McLeod Bethune

Celebrate Diversity by Beth Lewis, About.com

[What Does American
Democracy Mean to Me?](#)

New York, NY, Nov. 23, 1939

Nearly everyone agrees that teachers have an enormous opportunity to shape the lives and futures of young people. Even the slightest comment or connotation could be remembered for a lifetime. The area of **multicultural education** is the most critical area where we must consciously eliminate any and all suggestions of stereotypes or bias from our vocabulary and actions. Collectively, we are educating the adult population of tomorrow, so our uniform message must be one of tolerance and open mindedness. It's not enough to preach these values only during Black History Month or on Martin Luther King Day. Every day is an opportunity to influence the outlooks of young minds, through our conduct and commentary.

Shirley Chisholm

[Equal Rights For Women](#)

Washington, DC, May 21,
1969

Jessie Jackson

[Democratic National Con-
vention Address:
The Rainbow Coalition](#)

San Francisco, Calif. July 18,
1984

<http://k6educators.about.com/library/weekly/aa010600a.htm?once=true&>

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ten Important Supreme Court Decisions in Black History

[I've Been To The
Mountaintop](#)

April 3, 1968

Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857)

Civil Rights Cases (1883)

Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)

Powell v. Alabama (1932)

Shelley v. Kraemer (1948)
(1954)

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka

Heart of Atlanta Motel v. U.S. (1964)

Loving v. Virginia (1967)

Regents of the University of California v. Bakke (1978)

Grutter v. Bollinger (2003)

[http://www.infoplease.com/
spot/
bhmsupremecourt.html](http://www.infoplease.com/spot/bhmsupremecourt.html)

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