



We Shall Overcome: Write your Own Verse

As you learned last week, the song "We Shall Overcome" has gained meaning for many people across the world. In the United States, this song is especially meaningful for the Civil Rights movement. People use this song in many ways to stand against injustice.

What is injustice?

Injustice is something that is unfair or undeserved.

For this assignment, you will:

Describe an example of injustice.

This could be something you have learned about in history, something you have observed about our current world events, or a time that you experienced unfairness.

Review the verses of the song (on page 2).

Pro tip! *Notice the repetition in the structure of each verse!*

Write your own verse.

Using the example of injustice you described in question #1, write your own verse that will fit with the melody to "We Shall Overcome."

Pro tip! *Use the verses you reviewed in step #2 as a guide to help you.*

We Shall Overcome

Original lyrics by Rev. Charles Albert Tindley, 1900

Adaptations by Zilphia Horton, Frank Hamilton, Guy Carawan, Pete Seeger

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
We shall overcome some day.
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We shall overcome some day.

We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand,
We'll walk hand in hand some day.
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We shall overcome some day.

The truth will make us free, the truth will make us free
The truth will make us free some day.
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We shall overcome some day.

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,
We shall live in peace some day.
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We shall overcome some day.

We are not afraid, we are not afraid,
We are not afraid today.
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We shall overcome some day.

The whole wide world around, the whole wide world around,
The whole wide world around some day.
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We shall overcome some day.