

There are so many African American historical figures that have inspired me and the world. Although there were many prominent figures who led the way for young black people like me today; one that stands out is Malcom X. It seems to me that Malcom X is not the most liked and admired African American figure in American history, but I like him. He may not have been the same kind of leader as Martin Luther King Jr, or Rosa Parks but he was just as impactful if you ask me. A common misconception was that Malcom X condoned black on white violence. This could not be further from the truth! Malcom did not try to lead black people towards violence against whites, but rather, he encouraged self –defense against racist whites who looked to intentionally do harm to blacks. Malcom X did not favor the peaceful non-violent approach of his brothers, for he thought this put black people at the hands of violent whites. At a time where the Government was unable and or unwilling to assure justice was served; it is easy to empathize with Malcom's worries. What inspired me the most about him was his ability to narrate and speak what he believed to be truth. You could find Malcom X doing interviews, radio [talk] shows, or even see him live on TV meeting with popular show hosts. He was very articulate and intelligent in the way he spoke. He didn't force information on the listener, but rather, Malcom probed questioning within the listener or viewers mind. Today Malcom's legacy inspires me to speak with integrity, confidence, and a truthful tongue. Malcom X's level of transparency with his beliefs, took the world by storm and had an everlasting effect on the African-American diaspora. Even when his life was being threatened, Malcom stood by what he felt was right not just for him, but for his people. And that is the biggest inspiration.