

## Group Discussion Questions—Malcolm X “Message to the Grass Roots”

1. Who is the specific audience that Malcolm X is addressing in this speech? How does this compare to MLK’s audience? How does Malcolm X work to appeal directly to this audience? Find a few examples from the beginning of the speech and discuss them. You might consider what divides and what unites this audience (pp. 4-6).
2. For Malcolm X, what is a revolution based on? What examples does he provide? How does he defend the potential use of violence (pp. 7-10)?
3. How does Malcolm X distinguish between a “black revolution” and a “Negro revolution” (p. 7)? What does he think about Martin Luther King’s “turn-the-other-cheek revolution”? What does he say about the goal of integration (pp. 9- 10)?
4. What does Malcolm say about black nationalism (p. 10)? How is this related to the historical distinction he makes between the “house Negro” and the “field Negro” (pp. 10-11).
5. What does Malcolm think about religion, especially about Christianity versus Islam (pp. 12-13)? You might look especially at the metaphor of the dentist and novacaine.
6. What does Malcolm specifically say about Martin Luther King, Jr. (pp. 13-14). What about the March on Washington? How did it get started? How does he believe it became corrupted, and what was President Kennedy’s role in the corruption? Who are the Big Six (pp. 14 -16)?