

AP Language and Composition
Summer Reading Assignment 2017

Assignment:

For your summer assignment, you will be reading and annotating Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," paying particular attention to rhetorical strategies. To do this, you will need:

- a printed copy of the text (Use the one posted on Brantley's web site.)
- yellow, pink orange, blue and green highlighters.

Begin by looking up the following list of terms related to persuasive writing, if you don't already know them. You will need to go beyond a simple definition, and understand how each can be used for persuasive effect:

- Ethos
- Logos
- Pathos
- Audience
- Occasion
- Purpose
- Tone
- Diction
- Syntax
- Allusion

To annotate is to add notes to the margin of a text. You must print the document and do this by hand, in **blue or black ink**. Your notes should point out King's use of these terms, as well as any other elements of writing that have a persuasive effect. For instance, you might point out specific words (diction) that evoke an emotional response, or go beyond the list and comment on such elements as the use of figurative language.

Each annotation should do two things: identify King's use of a particular strategy, and comment on his purpose in making that choice or on the effect the choice has on the reader.

Your annotations must include the following:

- At the top of the first page, identify King's intended audience as well as his persuasive purpose.
- At the top of the first page, identify the overall tone and highlight in green. Highlight any annotations which address tone in green. This should include places where you identify shifts in tone. [For a list of tone words, look [here](#)]
- Comments on the use of Ethos: highlight in yellow
- Comments on the use of Pathos: highlight in pink
- Comments on the use of Logos: highlight in orange
- Look up at least 5 allusions; highlight your comments on these in blue.

Your annotations, with the scoring rubric attached, are due on the first day of class. Also, be prepared to do analytical work in class based on this text.

AP Language and Composition
 Summer Reading Assignment 2015

Scoring Rubric:

	High Score	Mid Range Score	Low Score
Completion	Has at least 1 or 2 thoughtful notes on each paragraph. Has included all requirements of the assignment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highlighted tone in green ▪ Highlighted ethos in yellow ▪ Highlighted pathos in pink ▪ Highlighted logos in orange ▪ Highlighted 5 allusions in blue (9-10 pts.)	Has a note for most paragraphs, but notes are not thoughtful OR has not annotated the entire text OR has highlighted some, but not all elements required (6-8 pts.)	Has few or no comments, OR has comments that are not relevant OR has not highlighted required elements. (0-5 pts.)
Accuracy	Notes reveal an understanding of the text; notes are accurate representations of the text; significant references are accurately explained (9-10 pts.)	Notes reveal only a partial understanding of the text; some inaccuracies may be evident in the notes. Meaning of underlining/highlighting is not apparent. (6-8 pts.)	Notes, if present, reveal little or no understanding of the text. (0-5 pts.)
Depth of Thought	Notes identify King's use of a particular strategies AND comment on his purpose and/or the effect on the reader. (9-10 pts.)	Focuses on elements of language, but provides little or no analysis; may rely more heavily on summarizing content. (6-8 pts.)	Does not include notations on language; provides no analysis. (0-5 pts.)

Total: ____/30

Sample Annotation

Respectful

opening;
 "fellow"
 suggests he
 is their
 equal

My Dear Fellow Clergymen:

While confined here in the Birmingham city jail, I came across your recent statement calling present activities "unwise and untimely." Seldom do I pause to answer criticism of my work and ideas. If I sought to answer all the criticisms that cross my desk, my secretaries would have little time for anything other than such correspondence in the course of the day, and I would have no time for constructive work. But since I feel that you are men of genuine good will and that your criticisms are sincerely set forth, I want to try to answer your statement in what I hope will be patient and reasonable terms.

He has more than
 one secretary; he's
 important and to be
 taken seriously