

Letter from a Birmingham Jail

by Martin Luther King, Jr.

MY DEAR FELLOW CLERGYMEN

[warm tone]

identifying with them bc he's a minister too & they are equal

- in response to call for unity

While confined here in the Birmingham City Jail, I came across your recent statement calling our present activities

→ ministers' claims - his purpose is to argue against their claim.

unwise and untimely. Seldom, if ever, do I pause to answer criticism of my work and ideas. If I sought to answer all

aware of audience

ethos: busy man with secretaries/professionalism

the criticisms that cross my desk, my secretaries would be engaged in little else in the course of the day, and I would

jokes

lend credence

*he's not attacking

funny?

tighter mood?

have no time for constructive work. But since I feel that you are men of genuine goodwill and your criticisms are

Sincerely set forth, I would like to answer your statement in what I hope will be patient and reasonable terms.

↳ he could have been really angry/rude/frustrated

I think I should give the reason for my being in Birmingham, since you have been influenced by the argument of

what does he imply?

"outsiders coming in." I have the honor of serving as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an

→ ministers' claim

serious, humble ethos

↳ he's aware of audience

organization operating in every Southern state, with headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. We have some eighty-five affiliate

↳ appositive

- logos

organizations all across the South--one being the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights. Whenever necessary

and possible we share staff, educational and financial resources with our affiliates. Several months ago our local affiliate

shows they work together

↳ parallel

here in Birmingham invited us to be on call to engage in a nonviolent direct action program if such were deemed

necessary. We readily consented and when the hour came we lived up to our promises. So I am here, along with several

unity

↳ metaphor

cliché + ethos

↑ INDUCTIVE

↑ interrupted sentence

members of my staff, because I have basic organizational ties here.

REASONING

pathos - pink
ethos - yellow
logos - blue

purple:
+ find all allusions
+ research

+ alliteration

* lending credence = orange

green
diction - label - tone

* parallel structure → anaphora / epistrophe
red

* define all tough words