

AP Lang - Summer Reading Task

What should I read?

For this assignment, you will read Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." It is linked [HERE](#). King wrote this letter after being arrested for nonviolent protests. King was writing to **TWO AUDIENCES** with this letter. He was responding directly to white church leaders who wrote a letter criticizing his protests, and to the larger nation as a whole.

Task

We will be digging into the letter together, but to start off, remember some of the argument techniques you learned about in previous English classes. For example, think about the three rhetorical appeals: ethos, pathos, and logos (defined below).

Then do the following (using the chart below):

1. Identify three sections of the letter that are very persuasive.
2. For each, explain how it supports King's argument and how it could persuade one or both of his two audiences (white church leaders and US citizens).

Section Quote	How does it persuade the audience and support King's claims?

Appeal Review

Ethos - Appeal to the character and credibility of the speaker. Can you trust them?

Pathos - Appeal to emotion. What feelings are they emphasizing? Are they positive or negative?

Logos - Appeal to logic and reason. What evidence or explanations will convince the audience?