FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENTS GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

TITLE ALL CAPS & hyperlinked	**Letter From Birmingham Jail**
HEADLINE In a sentence, what is it?	**The Civil Rights Movement and Dr. Martin Luther King's Letter From Birmingham Jail firmly grounded its appeals for liberty and equality in the Constitution and Declaration of Independence, fighting for America to fulfill its own promise that "all men are created equal."**
AUTHOR(S)	**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**
YEAR	1963
MAIN POINT Summary of the document	In April 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King was arrested in Birmingham, Alabama after he and other black demonstrators violated a court order to halt protest marches and sit-ins. While King was in jail, eight white clergy published an open letter criticizing King and black protestors, calling their activities "unwise and untimely." The clergy did not oppose the protestors' demands but disagreed with the protestors' methods. "When rights are consistently denied, a cause should be pressed in the courts and in negotiations among local leaders, and not in the streets," the clergy wrote. King disagreed and penned his "Letter from Birmingham Jail," arguing that black Americans had waited long enough for equal rights, and that unjust laws were invalid laws.King disagreed and penned his "Letter from Birmingham Jail," arguing that black Americans had waited long enough for equal rights, and that unjust laws were invalid laws.
ARGUMENT In a sentence, what claim does the document make?	Sometimes civil disobedience is an appropriate response to injustice and it is the responsibility of citizens, church, and state to stand peacefully for social justice and civil rights that are guaranteed in the Declaration of Independence and Constitution of the United States.
CLAIM Make a claim about the document's impact on U.S. political history	The Letter From Birmingham Jail takes the demand for rights and freedom from the Declaration of Independence and the rights granted by the Constitution of the United States and Bill of Rights and illustrates how these are missing for African-Americans and other groups that are not granted the full citizenship and rights guaranteed in these foundational documents. King's essay was foundational to the Civil Rights movement and the rights that it demanded for all Americans.
REMEMBER **Use a mnemonic** to help you remember it	**J**ustice **A**waited **I**s lost **L**iberty
QUOTE **Write an important Quote** from the document	*Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.*

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CONNECTIONS♻ to other foundational documents, **GoPo units**, topics, or essential GoPo knowledge	Letter From Birmingham Jail is a thread that weaves the calls for justice and liberty from the framers and founding documents into the present, calling into question the equal rights of men and leading to laws and government actions that have increased liberty, freedom, and equality for all. The Letter From Birmingham Jail echoes of the great calls for freedom from the founding documents.

9 Required Foundational Documents