

Birmingham Jail Letter: Outline

Introduction – SOAPS

Speaker	MLK	Occasion	responding to a group of clergymen who had criticized King’s protests
Audience	Birmingham clergymen	Purpose	Protests are wise and timely
Subject	civil rights for all Americas		

Literary Devices

Metaphor	Direct comparison between 2 unlike things	Simile	indirect comparison between 2 unlike things (using like or as)
Parallelism	repeated pattern of words	Diction	word choice
Allusion	reference to history or literature to make a point about the present	Rhetorical Question	a question that does not need a response because speaker will provide or it’s obvious
Ethos	language that shows one’s credibility		
Logos	language that appeals to one’s logic	Pathos	language that appeals to one’s emotions

Body – Note the main idea of each Roman numeral. Then, find two supporting text examples to support each main idea. Finally, write the rhetorical or language device the text examples on the line next to each letter.

- I.

MLK justifies that he belongs in Birmingham.

a.

b.
- II.

MLK discusses why a protest in Birmingham was necessary.

a.

b.
- III.

Their protests are timely because they have suffered long enough.

a.

b.

IV. Discusses the difference between just and unjust laws and applies that to segregation laws

a.

b.

V. King identifies the white moderate and how they are hindering social progress.

a.

b.

VI. King justifies the effectiveness of non-violent protests.

a.

b.

VII. King is disappointed with the church's response to the Civil Rights Movement.

a.

b.

VIII. MLK acknowledges the brave who've joined their cause.

a.

b.

IX. Conclusion - MLK has hope for a brighter future.

a.

b.