

Summer Preparations for AP Language & Composition 2022-2023

Mrs. Goebel

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25 Total Points

Due Date – The third day of school

*There will NOT be a test, but classroom activities at the beginning of the year will center around the reading.

1. Read Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter From Birmingham Jail." You can find it on the University of Pennsylvania website.

https://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html

2. Annotate/label the document for the use of the following **four** terms as defined by the *AP Glossary of Lit & Rhetorical Terms*

- a. **Tone:** A writer's attitude toward his subject matter revealed through diction, figurative language and organization. To identify tone, consider how the piece would sound if read aloud (or how the author wanted it to sound aloud). Tone can be: playful, serious, businesslike, sarcastic, humorous, formal, somber, etc.
- b. **Syntax:** This refers to the grouping and grammatical arrangement of words. First, a reader should examine the length of sentences (short or long). How does sentence length and structure relate to tone and meaning? Are they simple, compound, compound-complex sentences? How do they relate to one another?
- c. **Diction:** Word choice, particularly as an element of style. Different types of words have significant effects on meaning. An essay written in academic diction would be much less colorful, but perhaps more precise than street slang. You should be able to *describe* an author's diction. You **SHOULD NOT** write in your thesis, "The author uses diction...". This is essentially saying, "The author uses words to write." Instead, describe the type of diction (for example, formal or informal, ornate or plain).
- d. **Allusion:** An indirect reference to something (usually a literary text, although it can be other things commonly known, such as plays, songs, historical events) with which the reader is supposed to be familiar.

3. Write a **hand-written** two page essay (**in black ink**), which analyzes the rhetorical choices which King uses to convey his message.

Pay special attention to the structure of the letter

Concentrate specifically on King's use of tone, syntax, diction and allusion

Make sure your response includes a clear thesis

Select and use evidence from the speech to support your line of reasoning

Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning