

Final Reading Questions for MLK Jr.'s "Letter From Birmingham Jail"

1. What rhetorical strategies are used in paragraph 23?
2. What are the chief rhetorical strategies used in paragraph 27?
3. Why does King wait until paragraph 39 to address the alleged commendable behavior of the Birmingham police in "preventing violence"?
4. Trace the patterns of figurative language in King's letter: darkness and light, high and low, sickness and health
5. King uses repetition of single words or phrases, of sentence structures, and of sounds. Focusing on a passage of one or more paragraphs, discuss the effect of this use of repetition.
6. Considering the final three paragraphs as King's conclusion, discuss whether you believe it's rhetorically effective.