

This essay involves analyzing **rhetoric of pathos, ethos, and logos (rhetorical appeals)**, which means **quoting and critiquing** an author’s specific word choice in a piece of literature to determine meaning. This means that tone and vocabulary needs to be examined, and specific examples should be quoted in your paper. You should make a case/argument for the entire piece while crafting your thesis statement and should fill in at least some parts of the following information. Note: Thesis Statements vary structurally depending on what your point is, the nature of the work, etc.

[Author Name and Profession/Identity]	[Name and Genre of Work]	[Pronoun/Verb]	[Type of Rhetoric Used]
In civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr.’s	famous essay entitled “Letter from Birmingham Jail,”	he uses	the rhetorics of ethos, pathos, and logos
[The reason why he uses this kind of rhetoric]		[What this kind of rhetoric is intended to do/prove]	
to remind the white ministers in Alabama that as a similarly qualified, African-American Christian pastor,		he shares with them the religious duty to follow a public course supporting peace and love for all mankind.	

This is how such a thesis statement could be reworked and appear as part of the full topic paragraph of your essay.

While incarcerated in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963 for peacefully protesting racial inequality, civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. employed many kinds of rhetoric to convince local white ministers to support his peaceful mission to achieve rights for African-Americans. Attempting to shame them into agreeing with him, King deliberately sets these ministers up as just authorities ultimately capable of empathy for those suffering from social injustice, despite appearances. Logos appears in King’s citation of the concrete reasons for African-American discontent in Birmingham due to continual social injustice. Finally, pathos appears in his own expression of belief in the white ministers, who he claims to believe would combat white injustice against blacks if they really considered the trauma experienced by the African-American community. Throughout his famous 1963 essay, “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” King uses the rhetorics of ethos, logos, and pathos in turn to remind the white ministers in Alabama that as a similarly qualified, Christian pastor, he shares with them a religious duty to follow a public course supporting peace and love for all mankind.