

**MLK Jr.'s POWER TO BE PERSUASIVE**  
**"LETTER FROM BIRMINGHAM JAIL"**

PERSUADE--To cause or convince someone to do something through reasoning, argument, and sustained effort.

<b>LOGOS</b>	<b>ETHOS</b>	<b>PATHOS</b>
<p>Paragraph 16</p> <p>"Sometimes a law is just on its face and unjust in its application. For instance, I have been arrested on a charge of parading without a permit. Now, there is nothing wrong in having an ordinance which requires a permit for a parade. But such an ordinance becomes unjust when it is used to maintain segregation and to deny citizens the First-Amendment privilege of peaceful assembly and protest."</p>	<p>Paragraph 9</p> <p>"I have earnestly opposed violent tension, but there is a type of constructive, nonviolent tension which is necessary for growth. Just as Socrates felt that it was necessary to create a tension in the mind so that individuals could rise from the bondage of myths and half truths to the unfettered realm of creative analysis and objective appraisal, so must we see the need for nonviolent gadflies to create the kind of tension in society that will help men rise from the dark depths of prejudice and racism to the majestic heights of understanding and brotherhood. The purpose of our direct action program is to create a situation so crisis packed that it will inevitably open the door to negotiation."</p>	<p>Paragraph 11</p> <p>"But when you have seen vicious mobs lynch your mothers and fathers at will and drown your sisters and brothers at whim; when you have seen hate filled policemen curse, kick and even kill your black brothers and sisters; when you see the vast majority of your twenty million Negro brothers smothering in an airtight cage of poverty in the midst of an affluent society; when you suddenly find your tongue twisted and your speech stammering as you seek to explain to your six year old daughter why she can't go to the public amusement park that has just been advertised on television, and see tears welling up in her eyes when she is told that Funtown is closed to colored children, and see ominous clouds of inferiority beginning to form in her little mental sky, and see her beginning to distort her personality by developing an unconscious bitterness toward white people; when you have to concoct an answer for a five year old son who is asking: "Daddy, why do white people treat colored people so mean?"</p>
<p align="center"><b>WHY IS THIS LOGOS? And how is it persuasive?</b></p> <p>The First Amendment allows people to peacefully assemble (gather together) and protest, so MLK uses logic to explain why his arrest was unjust and actually based on segregation. MLK believes he was arrested not because he failed to have a permit, but because his arresters were trying to break up his parade that was attempting to show the evils of segregation. He explains this in his letter in a calm and persuasive way that cites the Constitution, an official national document, trying to make his audience understand and empathize with his rights being unjustly violated.</p>	<p align="center"><b>WHY IS THIS ETHOS? And how is it persuasive?</b></p> <p>MLK's credibility as a speaker and activist increases when he quotes Socrates, a famous Greek philosopher. Doing so shows MLK's intelligence and education level. Also, since MLK is seeking <u>nonviolent</u> protest and seems to keep his composure at all times, he becomes more persuasive because he seems trustworthy and reasonable.</p>	<p align="center"><b>WHY IS THIS PATHOS? And how is it persuasive?</b>  <b>(Let's answer this one together)</b></p>

<b>Your Example of LOGOS</b>	<b>Your Example of ETHOS</b>	<b>Your Example of PATHOS</b>
<b>WHY IS THIS LOGOS? And how is it persuasive?</b>	<b>WHY IS THIS ETHOS? And how is it persuasive?</b>	<b>WHY IS THIS PATHOS? And how is it persuasive?</b>

If you cannot find these on your own, the information below will assist you!

Paragraph 1--Ethos

Paragraph 6--Logos

Paragraph 7--Pathos

Paragraph 12--Logos

Paragraph 12--Ethos

Paragraph 18--Logos

Paragraph 25--Logos

Paragraph 25--Ethos

Paragraph 34--Pathos

Paragraph 36--Logos

Paragraph 36--Ethos

Paragraph 36--Pathos

Paragraph 39--Ethos