**“Letter from Birmingham Jail”**

**Rhetorical Analysis**

Print out Martin Luther King Jr.’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail”. Using information from our discussions in class, annotate the letter as you read using three different color highlighters: use one color each for ethos, pathos, and logos and highlight when King uses them. Once you have finished reading, complete the charts below.

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| **What are the elements of King’s rhetorical situation?** | |
| The **PURPOSE** for writing.  What is King’s purpose for writing? | The **PERSONA** or assumed role of the writer.  What is King’s assumed role? |
| The **AUDIENCE** for whom the writing is done.  For whom is King writing? | The **MESSAGE** or **CONTENT** of the writing.  What is King’s message? |

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| **Questions for Analytical Reading:** | |
| **PURPOSE**  What action does King want the audience to take? | **ETHOS**  Ethos – How does King establish common values with the audience? How does King create a common ground for speaker and audience? |
| **AUDIENCE**  Pathos – How does King anticipate and manipulate the audience’s emotional reaction? | **ARGUMENT**  Logos – How is the message presented? What figurative language is used? What mode of discourse is used (compare/contrast, cause/effect, classification & division, et. al.) does King employ to convey his message? |