**Digital Learning 4/27 – 5/1**

Learning Focus:

* Analyzing a historical primary source document for meaning and context.
* Identifying the author’s purpose and point of view.
* Determining the meaning of unfamiliar words as they are used in a text by using context clues.
* Analyzing the rhetoric an author uses to advance the point of view or purpose.

DIRECTIONS:

*You will be reading Dr. Martin Luther King’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail” from April 16th, 1963. This is an example of a* ***primary source document****, or a document that comes directly from the historical time period and source in which it was written. You will divide up each of the pages of his letter by day of the week to pace yourself. You will have activities to complete each day as you read.*

Monday:

* Read these facts and watch the videos first before reading the document:
  1. Dr. Martin Luther King was an American clergyman, activist, and leader of the Civil Rights Movement.
  2. He used a method of “non-violent civil disobedience” to protest the discriminatory segregation laws in the US at the time.
     + Non-violent civil disobedience is the act of peacefully breaking segregation laws.
       - EX) African American teenagers sat at a “whites only” lunch counter and peacefully demanded to be served. Even when they were faced with violence and harmful racial slurs, they remained peaceful by refusing to retaliate in any way.
       - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mT7xgLIYhaI>
  3. King’s letter is a response to a statement made by eight white Alabama clergymen on April 12, 1963, titled “A Call for Unity.” The clergymen agreed that social injustices existed but argued that the battle against racial segregation should be fought solely in courts, not in the streets.
     + <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIpfCVt2eb4&list=PLlcS-v5MGVlDpL0RaZ0XSM3lWSXdbzUoS&index=50&t=0s>
* Read page 1, including the bolded informational text at the beginning. Write down any words that you do not know and look up their definitions.
* **Answer the following questions in complete sentences:**
  1. Why was Martin Luther King sent to jail?
  2. Why did Martin Luther King choose to write the letter to the clergymen?
  3. What was the reason that Dr. King was in Birmingham?
  4. Explain what you believe this quote means from paragraph 5, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”
  5. What allusions (references to popular texts or cultural elements) are made in this section? Why would King choose to use these allusions with the clergymen?

Tuesday:

* Read pages 2-3 from the document. Write down any words you do not know and look up their definitions.
* **Answer the following questions in complete sentences:**
  1. What reasoning does King dive for using “nonviolent direct action”?
  2. Explain what you believe the following quote means from paragraph 5 on page 2, “We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.”
  3. Why does King have an issue with the word “wait”?
  4. Why did King choose to include the example of his daughter being denied the right to go to the public amusement park?
  5. To King, what is the difference between just and unjust laws (analyze the first 5 paragraphs of page three to help you answer this fully).

Wednesday:

* Read pages 4-5. Write down any words you do not know and look up their definitions.
* **Answer the following questions in complete sentences:**
  1. Why does King continue to reference religious texts and statements throughout this letter to the clergymen? What is he doing by including this?
  2. How does King feel about being labeled an “extremist”? Explain.
  3. Why was King disappointed with “the white church and its leadership”?
  4. Why was King upset with the clergymen for “warmly commending the Birmingham police force for keeping ‘order’ and preventing violence’”?
  5. How does this page summarize what the atmosphere of Birmingham, Alabama was like during the early 1960s?

Thursday:

* Read page 6. Write down any words that you don’t know and look up their definitions.
* **Answer the following questions in complete sentences:**
  1. What do you believe King meant when he said, “So I have tried to make it clear that it is wrong to use immoral means to attain moral ends. But now I must affirm that it is just as wrong, or even more, to use moral means to preserve immoral ends.” (Paragraph 1)
  2. Who did King feel the clergymen should have commended (praised/spoke positively of) instead of the Birmingham police? Why?
  3. In the second to last paragraph, King mentions this letter being long. He mentions that it would have been shorter if he was writing it from a comfy desk. Why did he choose to include this in the letter? What message was he trying to get across to the clergymen?
  4. What was King’s central purpose in writing this letter to the clergymen?
  5. Analyzing rhetoric: Go back to the text and write down five words that stand out as being valid, important, profound, and/or moving. Look for the following:
     + *Examples of rhetoric (persuasive language) and powerful diction (word choice), particularly words with strong connotations.*
     + *Imagery, sensory detail, and figurative language*
     + *Rhetorical appeals to emotion, ethics, or logic*

Five Words:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6. Final Reflection: In three complete sentences, write your thoughts and feelings after reading this letter. Be sure to include any remaining questions you have.

Friday:

* Review/complete any unfinished questions.
* Reach out to me with any questions you have.
* Submit your work by…
  + Emailing the completed digital copy to me.
  + Sending me pics of a copy you completed on notebook paper (Remind or class Instagram DM @missmuellersclass).