**Letter from Birmingham Jail Outline Assignment**

You are to write an introduction followed by a body outline (2-3 topics you will cover to support your analysis) and a small conclusion based on a topic assigned to you according to your last name (you can find this at the bottom of the page). This outline will basically be the skeleton of your essay. Following you will find a detailed example of how to complete the outline.

**Ex:**

**Prompt:** Write a well-developed essay that analyzes the manipulation of language Martin Luther King’s uses to express his attitude towards segregation.

**Intro:** In a moving, poignant, yet commanding letter, Martin Luther King Jr. addresses his fellow clergyman and the people who condemn his actions. With a mature and controlled use of language, King vehemently speaks out against segregation and rebukes those in favor of it. He powerfully argues, by using logical progression and allusions, that the time to act against segregation is now, for it is not only unjust, but inhumane.

I. Through the use of analogies and allusions he paints a picture of segregation being morally wrong and in need of change
   a. Historical allusions (to Paul, Socrates, theologians)---Making himself and his claims comparable to those before
   b. Analogy---segregation with disease and unjust law---making a claim that it is a sickness that needs to be finished.

II. Segregation is by logical process of thinking, unnatural and cruel.
   a. Logos---uses logical process to define segregation as morally wrong
   b. Pathos---appeals to emotions of audience that segregation is like a dam that obstructs, and our nature calls out against

**Conclusion:** King effectively presents segregation as a reality that needs to be addressed and not left alone so it can fester. In his mature style of writing and with ample support for his viewpoint on segregation, he urges the reader to see eye to eye with him and to denounce the horrors of segregation so that together they can all take action and never think that to “wait” is the correct path to be taken.

**TOPICS**

1. Write a well-developed essay that analyzes the manipulation of language Martin Luther King’s uses to express his attitude towards an **unjust law**. (Last names A-C)
2. Write a well-developed essay that analyzes the manipulation of language Martin Luther King’s uses to express his attitude towards the ‘**white moderate.’** (Last names D-L)
3. Write a well-developed essay that analyzes the manipulation of language Martin Luther King’s uses to express his attitude towards **negotiating vs. direct-action.** (Last names M-P)
4. Write a well-developed essay that analyzes the manipulation of language Martin Luther King’s uses to express his attitude towards his fellow **Clergymen.** ((Last names Q-Z)