

Annotations Guide for Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream"

Check the website for what "annotating" means, and the expectations that come with it. The Annotations page is accessed through the Writing tab. Remember that when you annotate you are looking for the "why" of things (as opposed to the "what"). Also, annotations don't have to be paragraphs—you can be brief, as long as you can explain it later.

For ***each*** paragraph, complete the following:

○ **Rhetorical Devices**

Color code for ethos, pathos, and logos. Make sure that you do so as modeled in class. Not everything has to be color-marked (the text is not a coloring book!).

○ **Claims & Counterclaims**

Identify them as you find them in the text.

○ **Parallelism, Restatement, Repetition, Analogy**

○ **Vocabulary Words**

Identify unknown words; then, use context clues to clarify their meaning. Double-check your inference in the dictionary.

Be sure to know the meaning of the following: *Emancipation Proclamation, seared, withering, manacles, prosperity, languished, dramatize, promissory note, unalienable, defaulted, vaults, hallowed, gradualism, desolate, fatal, legitimate, invigorating, revolt, emerges, threshold, degenerate, majestic, militancy, engulfed, inextricably, devotees, fatigue, basic mobility, righteousness, unmindful, tribulations, battered, staggered, redemptive, wallow, creed, sweltering, vicious, interposition, nullification, exalted, hew out, jangling, discords, prodigious, heightening, curvaceous, hamlet, gentiles, Negro spiritual.*

Paragraph 1

1. Tone

- What is the tone?

2. Author's Purpose

- Why does King begin with this tone? How does it contribute to his purpose?

Paragraph 2

1. Tone

- How does King create a shift in tone?

2. Rhetorical Devices

- How does King use imagery, diction, and connotation to develop pathos? Is it effective?

Paragraph 3

1. Author's Purpose

- Why does King use the promissory note analogy?

Paragraph 4

1. Understanding the text
 - What injustices are King and his listeners protesting?
2. Rhetorical Devices
 - What is the effect of King's repetition of "we refuse"?
3. Tone
 - What is the tone? How does King establish it?

Paragraph 5

1. Understanding the text
 - What does King mean by "the tranquilizing drug of gradualism"?
2. Tone
 - How does his use of "tranquilizing" and "drug" contribute to his central idea?
 - How do they develop the tone?

Paragraph 6

1. Author's Purpose
 - What is the tone? How does Lincoln develop it?
 - Why does Lincoln choose to end with this particular tone?
2. Rhetorical Devices
 - What idea does King's repetition of "now" help to emphasize?
 - What is the effect of King's use of parallelism?

Paragraph 7

1. Tone
 - How does King use imagery to develop the tone?

Paragraph 8

1. Central Idea

How does King support the central idea in this paragraph?
2. Author's Purpose

Why does King warn against "drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred"?
3. Rhetorical Devices
 - What idea does King restate when he says, "We cannot walk alone"?

Paragraph 9

1. Understanding the text
 - Which counterclaim does King address?
 - What is his rebuttal?
2. Rhetorical Devices
 - What is the effect of King's use of repetition?
 - What is the effect of King's imagery?
3. Symbolism
 - Why does King compare justice to water and righteousness to a mighty stream?

Paragraph 10

1. Author's Purpose
 - Why does King include this paragraph?

Paragraph 11

1. Understanding the text

According to King, how should his people react to physical force?
2. Rhetorical Devices
 - What is the effect of King's use of repetition?

Paragraph 12

1. Author's Purpose
 - Why does King reference the American Dream?
 - Why does King reference the nation's "creed"?
2. Rhetorical Devices
 - What is the effect of King's use of repetition?
 - What is the effect of King's use of parallelism?
3. Tone
 - How does King's use of imagery develop the tone?

Paragraph 13

1. Understanding the text
 - What does King mean by "interposition and nullification"?

Paragraph 14

1. Understanding the text
 - What is King talking about when he mentions landscape?

Paragraph 15

1. Diction
 - What is the connotation of "hew out"?
 - Why does King compare despair to a mountain and hope to a stone?
2. Rhetorical Devices
 - What idea does King reinforce using the rhythm of repetition?
 - How does King use parallelism?

Paragraph 16

1. Rhetorical Devices
 - What idea does King reinforce using the rhythm of repetition?
 - How does King use parallelism?
2. Author's Purpose

- Why does King mention New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Colorado, California, Georgia, Tennessee, and Mississippi?
- Why does he begin with “But,” before mentioning Georgia, Tennessee, and Mississippi?

Paragraph 17

1. Tone
 - What is the tone? How does King develop it?
2. Rhetorical Devices
 - How does King use parallelism?
3. Author’s Purpose
 - Why does King end his speech with lines from “the old Negro spiritual”?