

## Homework: King and Frank

We will be discussing M.L. King's 1963 "Letter From a Birmingham Jail", which might be described as the "autobiographical political" voice, which meditates on what he believes more than his own personal experiences. Arrested in April, 1963 for civil disobedience, King addresses his critics in this letter. King writes this letter four months before his famous "I Have a Dream" speech at the August 1963 March on Washington.

Answer the following questions:

1. Why did King choose the letter form to explain his nonviolent approach to social change? Who is he writing to? Is the letter form effective for his goal?
2. Choose two paragraphs, one from the beginning of the letter and one from the end. Within each paragraph, choose two sentences that you find powerful and explain why.

THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK, first published in 1947 (by Otto Frank, Anne's father, after her death) is still considered the most famous Holocaust autobiographical narrative. Anne, a young Jewish girl in hiding in Holland during the Nazi era, combines features of personal diary/journal writing with retrospective diary. Anne began her diary as a personal journal, and was later inspired by a March 1944 BBC broadcast about the value of preserving journals of everyday life in the Netherlands under German occupation. From late May through early August 1944, when Anne was arrested and sent to a concentration camp (where she died), she edited two-thirds of the diary she began in June, 1942. So the excerpt you will write about is edited for a potential public readership.

1. What were your expectations of what this diary would be like, if you have not read it before? (If you have read parts of it before, try to recall your expectations at the time of first reading.) How does the diary excerpt compare to those expectations?
2. In what ways is Anne's diary a private journal? In what ways does it seem public? What is the effect on the reader?

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