

LITERATURE, ETHICS, AND AUTHORITY
15.269

Class #6: Monday 26 February 2001

Read:

Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from Birmingham City Jail," in Why We Can't Wait

Study Questions:

1. This document is an exercise in leadership, rather than a portrayal of it. Yet it does tell a story: what is the story of King's "Letter"?
2. What is King's strategy for bringing his audience around to his point of view?
3. What role does the concept of "human rights" play in King's piece, and how does that relate to what we've seen so far in this section's assignments?