

## **Enthymemes in King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"**

Based on our class discussions of syllogisms and enthymemes, unpack the following enthymemes by constructing (quasi) deductive syllogisms. For the correct distribution of terms, oftentimes you'll have to paraphrase, which is fine. If you get stuck, reread the relevant sections from "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." (Contextual clues help a great deal.)

### **Samples:**

"But since I feel that you are men of genuine good will and that your criticisms are sincerely set forth, I want to try to answer your statements in what I hope will be patient and reasonable terms."  
(paragraph #1)

MP: Men of genuine good will deserve a response.

mp: You are men of genuine good will.

C: You deserve a response.

"But since I feel that you are men of genuine good will and that your criticisms are sincerely set forth, I want to try to answer your statements in what I hope will be patient and reasonable terms."  
(paragraph #1)

MP: Sincere criticisms deserve a response.

mp: Your criticisms are sincere.

C: Your criticisms deserve a response.

1. "... you assert that our actions, even though peaceful, must be condemned because they precipitate violence." (paragraph #23)

**MP:**

**mp:**

**C:**

2. “Lamentably, it is an historical fact that privileged groups seldom give up their privileges voluntarily.” (paragraph #10)

**MP:**

**mp:**

**C:**

3. “All segregation statutes are unjust because segregation distorts the soul and damages the personality.” (paragraph #14)

**MP:**

**mp:**

**C:**

4. “I submit that an individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment . . . is in reality expressing the highest respect for law.” (paragraph #18)

**MP:**

**mp:**

**C:**