

Here are three short essays. Please do the following for Mother Tongue, Shooting an Elephant, Letter from Birmingham Jail.

1. Identify what you think is the most important sentence in this essay. Write the full sentence out. (Obviously, if there is more than one sentence in a row that you think may be important, then write the two or three out and follow the subsequent instructions accordingly).
2. Explain how this sentence captures the essential aspects of this essay: namely, its content, tone, style, and/or how it progresses from beginning to end.
3. Write an important question that you think this essay is trying to answer.

Letter from Birmingham Jail

The important sentences of the letter written by King Martin Luther are "Oppressed people cannot remain oppressed forever. The yearning for freedom eventually manifests itself, and that is what has happened to the American Negro." Another sentence stressing the theme of the letter pertaining to rights of the blacks are "But when you have seen vicious mobs lynch your mothers and fathers at will and drown your sisters and brothers at whim; when you have seen hate-filled policemen curse, kick and even kill your black brothers and sisters; when you see the vast majority of your twenty million Negro brothers smothering in an airtight cage of poverty in the midst of an affluent society." The following sentence has become a hallmark of this letter "Justice too long delayed is justice denied."

The sentences mentioned above are indicative of the King's appropriate usage of words, and imagery ultimately providing a sense of empowerment. These sentences create a sensational feeling depicting the real scenario of the life of the Negro people to arouse sympathy towards the blacks. These sentences were further elaborated within the letter to force the people to think of the hopeless life the blacks were living during that period. The sentences mentioned above are the central idea of the letter and invokes an emotional feeling. As the sentences depicts the scene, where it is tough for one to dream, let alone experience, a scene where people attack