

Rhetorical Devices(Figurative Language) in Letter from Birmingham Jail

1. Metaphor

“But again I am thankful to god that some noble souls from the ranks of organized religion have broken loose from the paralyzing chains of conformity and joined us as active partners in the struggle for freedom.”

-King is referring to the whites that helped the blacks fight for their rights and equality.

2. Personification

“For years now I have heard the word wait.” It rings in the ear of every negro with a piercing familiarity”.

-King is referring to freedom being put on hold and nothing is being taken into action to improve equality.