

The author, Benjamin Banneker, artfully and creatively crafts his argument for the abolition movement by appealing to ethos and combining appeals to pathos and logos to encourage the reader ^{Jefferson} to self-reflect and deeply consider the moral implications of slavery. ✓

✓ Throughout Banneker's piece, he appeals to ethos using his own knowledgeable background and by referencing other highly-regarded "experts" of the time. Banneker has a clear educated background: he was an accomplished astronomer, mathematician, surveyor, and author. However, he understood the social hierarchy and racial stereotypes that existed at the time: a son of former slaves, such as himself, would have to go extra lengths to prove his intelligence. This is likely a factor of the upper diction of the piece. The vocabulary indicates that the author is well-educated, and thus worthy of the recipient, Thomas Jefferson's time and attention. Banneker further appeals to ethos by providing two additional sources for Thomas Jefferson to trust if he doesn't believe Banneker: the Bible and God, and Thomas Jefferson himself. The letter ends with Banneker quoting Job, a righteous man in the Bible: "[...] Job proposed to his friends, 'put your souls in their souls stead, [...]' (18:50). Christianity and the Bible were often given final say in all moral matters at the time, so Banneker's allusion to the Bible and somewhat of a testimony from God, provided a source that Thomas Jefferson could

Give some examples here!

not argue with ^{yes} Bannecker artfully uses this rhetorical strategy to encourage Jefferson to listen to God if he would listen to Bannecker and empathize. Further, the author also quotes Jefferson himself, one of the greatest appeals to ethos for a self-confident reader. Bannecker also includes some praise and describes "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal," (21-23) as a "true and valuable doctrine, which is worthy to be recorded and remembered in all succeeding ages" (19-21). Bannecker chose to praise and quote Jefferson himself to provide another source that he would believe in if he didn't view Bannecker's as knowledgeable enough. He also quoted Jefferson to point out the blatant irony of the situation, this is further emphasized using pathos and logos. Ultimately, Bannecker was able to craft a strong appeal to ethos by referencing Jefferson, the Bible, and pointing out his own knowledgeable background to make his letter seem ^{more} trustworthy.

Bannecker also combined appeals to pathos and logos to encourage Jefferson to empathize with him and recognize the irony of it. Bannecker intelligently begins his letter by describing the feelings of suppression and helplessness that the colonists, not slaves, endured. Bannecker understands that in order to craft an effective appeal to pathos he needs to draw on the colonizer's past experiences and feelings then connect it to slavery, instead of beginning with the experiences of slaves. ^{which Jefferson clearly doesn't care about} In his introduction, Bannecker doesn't include a rhetorical question, but a request to the reader instead: "look back I entreat you" (4). Bannecker then uses carefully-chosen words and images language to

incite strong feelings of rage, sadness, and frustration in the reader. He encourages Jefferson to think back to "that time in which the arms and tyranny of the British Crown were exerted with every powerful effort in order to reduce you to a state of servitude, [...]" (1-4). The word choice in this introduction has an angry and suppressed connotation that Banneker hopes to incite in the reader. After reviving these emotions in Jefferson, Banneker appeals to logos by creating a logical argument that connects the experiences of slaves under bondage and the colonists under the rule of Britain. Banneker is able to cleverly point out the irony and unjustness of Jefferson stating that all men are equal and deserve to be free, but still supporting slavery. Banneker emphasizes this by stating Jefferson should be "found guilty of that most criminal act which you professedly detested in others with respect to yourselves" (39-40). ^{By appealing to} Using logos, Banneker can articulately explain Jefferson's hypocrisy and help him understand the unjustness of his actions. Thus, Banneker combined appeals to pathos and logos demonstrates the irony of Jefferson's statements.

Banneker was able to effectively appeal to ethos, pathos, and logos to craft a pro-abolition argument that would cause Jefferson to re-think his stance on slavery and question his double standards.