Intro:

Martin Luther King Jr, a core activist and acknowledged Baptist minister during the American Civil Rights movement, delivered a speech in 1963 “I have a Dream”, suggesting that racial equality in his home country ultimately will become a reality if the country unites. Utilizing pathos, King describes his ideal world and evokes emotions of hope and unity from his listeners. King consistently uses literary devices to strengthen his pathos persuasion. Anaphora is present to ensure his core message is heard and buried into the minds of the people. In addition, extended metaphors and epithets are used to vividly illustrate his emotions and communicate his ideas clearly and passionately. He speaks to start a fire inside the hearts of the American people in order to make the all races feel united and ready to make change in their society. King, speaking to the entire population of the United States, projects his voice for all to hear. Especially his audience of the empathetic opposite race, hoping to strike a match in them to take a stand against the status quo.

Body Paragraph 1 (Anaphora)

* King repeatedly uses anaphora to emotionally intensify his words by constantly repeating his main concepts.
* “Let freedom ring” “I have a dream” “now is the time” – He uses these to amplify their meanings and to use them in different contexts.
* He kept repeating himself to make a point, he didn’t want the audience to miss out on what he was saying (parallelism and repetition)
* Pathos: he repeated to evoke emotion from the audience, concerning exactly what he was saying – he wants the audience to feel united by knowing what he was saying, as he was saying it
* The things he repeats are descriptive or metaphorical
* It made his points stronger and more memorable – evoking hope from the audience

Body Paragraph 2 (extended metaphors)

* King uses extended metaphors to strengthen his pathos strategy by targeting the American people’s hearts directly
* “cash a check” “beacon of light” – He uses easy-to-understand examples to make the American people feel something from each and every metaphor
  + Uses analogies to intensify the emotion within
  + Metonymy’s and synecdoche’s
    - “We cannot walk alone”,
* He persuades the audience with emotion by making them think about how the black people feel – encouraging empathy

Body Paragraph 3 (epithets)

* He uses epithets and descriptive language, using language with mind-boggling and passionate connotations
* “sweltering summers”, “dark and desolate valley”, “vicious racists”
  + He wants the audience to understand HIS emotions on these subjects so that THEIR emotions become engaged
  + Evoked emotions of guilt from people from the opposite ethnicity
* Using his personal experiences and comparing them by using horrible words and worse experiences

Conclusion

* By using descriptive language, comparisons and repetition, King hopes to share his message of unity to create an equal utopia for all ethnicities
* Anaphora, extended metaphors and epithets were used by King to persuade the audience to be empathetic and feel a sense of unity
* These literary devices were effective in conveying pathos – he evoked emotion and made the audience see through his eyes
  + Made white people feel: guilt, unity
  + Made everyone feel: united, hopeful