In 1834, Jarm Logue, a slave to Mannasseth and Sarah Logue, ran away North to seek his freedom. He took his master’s horse, Old Rock, and went on to many accomplishments, including starting schools for black children and fighting against slavery. We may imagine his surprise, then, when he received a letter from his former owner, Sarah Logue, instructing him to either forfeit his freedom and return to his owner, or pay $1000.00 to pay for the horse he “borrowed” as well as the value he himself represented to his owners. His response indicated he would in no way do either thing; he in fact changed his name to Jermain Wesley Loguen to underscore that he was his own man. Both letters make frequent use of cause and effect reasoning and religious allusion, but Jermain Loguen’s letter is the more persuasive because he uses these to create a more logical approach to argue for his freedom.

Sarah Logue’s letter to her escaped slave Jarm uses a variety of persuasive techniques to argue for either his return or payment. Early in the letter she starts to pour on the guilt to her former chattel, saying she’s a cripple, and reminding him of how he stole their horse, saying “though we got the mare back, she was never worth much after you took her.” Her use of cause and effect appears to be aimed at making him feel bad for stealing the horse which was then ruined, but she immediately follows that up with “and as I now stand in need of some funds, I have determined to sell you.” If she had been trying to get on his good side, she failed, as reminding him of his servitude to her—that she owned him—only has the effect of making him angry, as we see in his response. She establishes her ethos as a manipulative and greedy person here, one who is undeserving of his assistance.

She goes on later in her letter to ask him, “I would like to know if you read your bible?” This religious allusion might serve several purposes; and here I would talk about how she is trying to establish ethos ☺…

And next, I’d have an example from his letter discussing a way he uses cause and effect to argue his viewpoint… maybe arguing his creation of logos?

And after that, another example showing how he uses religious allusion to argue his viewpoint… and discuss how it creates … ethos? Logos?

**Here’s one way to write a “So What” conclusion:**

“So What” meaning in this case, what’s the bigger picture?

So end the end, Jermain Loguen saved his money and his freedom by not giving in to Sarah Logue’s demands. As an abolitionist committed to stopping slavery, Loguen used his powers of rhetoric to put his former owner on the defense. Sarah Logue never did get the money she demanded, nor did Loguen turn himself in to her. In a time where physical violence against slaves was routine, it is refreshing to see that a complicated matter like this could be addressed successfully with words, and not weapons.