**Background**

Maya Angelou’s autobiography, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, tells Maya’s story from age three when she was sent to live with her grandmother in Stamps, Arkansas to when she became a mother at the age of sixteen.

During the reading of the novel we discussed how Maya dealt with many hardships that violated the rights guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The rights that were violated include, but are not limited to:

* Article 1 Right to Equality
* Article 2 Freedom from discrimination
* Article 3 Right to life, Liberty, Personal Security
* Article 5 Freedom from Torture and Degrading Treatment

We also read and discussed how other rights guaranteed in the UDHR were upheld. These rights include, but are not limited to:

* Article 10 Right to Fair Public Hearing
* Article 11 Right to be considered Innocent until Proven Guilty
* Article 13 Right to Free Movement in and out of the Country
* Article 17 Right to Own Property
* Article 23 Right to Desirable Work and to Join Trade Unions

In addition to reading Maya Angelou’s autobiography, our class brought in several news articles that report on current events that involve human rights. Through reading the autobiography and current events you should have a good understanding of human rights as they were in the 1930s and 1940s as well as the current state of human rights in 2013.

**Task**

Your task is to prepare for a class discussion on the topic of human rights. The focus of the discussion will be on whether *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* is an appropriate novel for high school students should to read in order to develop their knowledge and understanding of the human rights conditions in the 21st century.

**Prepare**

You will prepare for this class discussion following the same process as writing an essay. Therefore, you are required to prepare and turn in:

1. Quote Collector
2. Outline
3. Essay