

MAIN ESSAY OPTIONS for *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

Points on the rubric will be doubled: 100 pts possible. THIS IS A HUGE GRADE. Take your time & meet the deadline!

Select ONE of the following options and put the # on the TOP of your essay

OPTION #1: Dealing with Racial Prejudice (Make sure each paragraph has a distinct focus. Maybe prejudice Maya faced, prejudice her family faced, prejudice in the community in general, and prejudice against the white people are possible topics for paragraphs.)

OPTION #2: People (and possibly things) Who were Lifelines for Maya (Each paragraph would focus on a different person who helped Maya.)

Option #3: Relate one or more poems we read to the story using textual support from BOTH the poem(s) and *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. (Available to Lit and Comp only)

ORGANIZATION 11 pts

- Intro, Body, and Concl – 5 paragraphs total
- Intro – grabs attention and gives an overview w/out going into too much detail. It does **NOT** say this paper will be about or I will write about.
- Should state **three main pts** in both intro and concl
- Lit and Comp must also: avoid a simple list when providing the overview
- Lit and Comp should have a catch attention OTHER than a question. English 10 can have any catch attention.
- Concl – wraps up main points WITHOUT giving new info
- Body paragraphs have clear, **distinct** focus
- **General topic sentences** that give a preview about what the paragraph will be about. VARY them.

BODY and CONTENT 14 pts

- Well developed paragraphs with TEXTUAL SUPPORT including some DIRECT QUOTES (see documentation note)
- Stay focused on writing option. Don't re-tell the story
- Accurate, convincing information
- Lit and Comp students need TWO or more DIRECT quotes for EVERY body paragraph plus a 3rd example that can be paraphrased
- Eng 10 kids need ONE or more DIRECT quotes for EVERY body paragraph plus two more paraphrased example.
- **BOTH classes need three or more DISTINCT examples for EVERY body paragraph—9 examples total (do NOT just provide several quotes on the same incident)**
- **SET up quotes, explain them, AND connect examples using transitions**

2 pages long MIN in format listed below (you can go over)

DOCUMENTATION 6 pts

- Use parenthetical citations properly with quotes
- Punctuation should appear AFTER the (Angelou 112).
- Single quotes inside regular quotes if needed
- Brackets [] used if you need to change a word inside the quotation

SENTENCE FLUENCY 7 pts

- Vary sentence structure (on-line activities available on the grammar sheet to help with this)
- **UNDERLINE TWO ING sentences** (a sent that starts w/ an **ING verb**)
- **UNDERLINE one Complex sentence** -- sent that STARTS w/ a subordinating conjunction (because, although, even though, if, since, etc.)
- Avoid short choppy sentences
- use TRANSITION words

WORD CHOICE 2 pts

- Interesting, varied, accurate word choices
- No awkward wording
- Avoid uninteresting simplistic words like good, bad, etc.

FORMAT 3 pts

- Double spaced
- NO skipping EXTRA lines between paragraphs
- Times New Roman 12 pt. font
- Standard margins, LABEL option, project sheet stapled to the BACK of the essay
- No large heading, Full name and hour on TOP

MECHANICS 7 pts

- Proofread – avoid wordiness, awkward wording, or mechanical errors
- Run-ons and fragments are the MOST serious errors
- Book titles should be underlined OR put in italics (short stories and poems are put in quotes)
- Don't start sentences w/ so. Try however or as a result instead

The prewriting will be a separate grade.

REMINDER:

DID YOU MAKE SURE TO UNDERLINE and LABEL YOUR COMPLEX and ING SENTENCES? Make sure your ING words are ACTION words!

Paper should be in this order

- 1) Final Typed Paper (on top)
- 2) Prewriting Outline (NO draft)
- 3) THIS project sheet (on the bottom - don't lose it!)