

Notes

- Introduce the book and say why you liked it and how it changed your opinion.
- State the “Jarvious Cotton” example (his parents were slaves along with their parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, he endured discrimination laws, and his kids suffer the threat of mass incarceration under the new caste system) to show how slavery was reborn and transformed into the New Jim Crow, and that was redesigned when abolished into mass incarceration.
- The system is rigged against black people (crack cocaine v. powdered cocaine sentences/very different)
- Police search black suspects much more often and with less evidence than white suspects
- The quote from Du Bois “The slave went free; stood a brief moment in the sun; then moved back again toward slavery.” Talk about it and its relevance.
- Give a brief crash course on the history of racial caste in America.
- Talk about how the clear line between minorities was drawn, primarily because of poor whites who did not want to find themselves at the bottom of the totem pole.
- Talk about the War on Drugs and how few constraints are given to federal prosecutors when arresting the urban poor for drug the use of crack cocaine, and how funding is given in huge amounts to law enforcement officials to sponsor drug arrest in a militaristic, frightening way.
- Talk about how those swept into the system are almost guaranteed a lifetime behind bars because, a) they are typically denied proper legal representation, b) they are forced to plea bargain to avoid a lengthier sentence.
- Talk about how, upon release, their lives will never go back to normal because they can’t vote, are denied public housing opportunities,

cannot find employment because of the new “check the box” program (explain) and are denied coverage with food stamps

- Talk about how a formally egalitarian government suddenly started rounding up blacks and locking them behind bars, doomed with endless poverty and under caste for the rest of their lives.
- Talk about how people of color are even less likely than white to deal drugs, and how the punishment for dealing crack cocaine, a drug predominately used with blacks, is far more severe than the punishment that comes with dealing powder cocaine, a drug primarily used with whites.
- Talk about the legal rules that riddle the system with young black men.
- Talk about the shame blacks get from the prison label, and how many try but fail to rebuild their lives and keep their painful past a secret. You can only sleep in your parents basement for so long.
- Talk about how mass incarceration is similar to that of the Jim Crow because a) they both harbor legalized discrimination that have been molded and redesigned to fit this century’s laws and regulations, and b) both mass incarceration and the Jim Crow segregate blacks into prisons of ghetto communities, then implements restrictions on them such as denying them the right to vote, the right to housing, jobs, etc.
- Talk about the differences between the caste systems mainly that mass incarceration is the only one that doesn’t discriminate upon blacks solely on the color of their skin, making it harder to accuse the criminal justice system of being racist.
- Talk about how some claim that mass incarceration isn’t a caste system because it is supported by blacks.
- Talk about how some claim that it is better not to try to defy the criminal justice system but to try and make yourself a better person while in it.

- Talk about how future civil right advocacy should change to not only end mass incarceration, but to end racial caste as a whole so that a new system doesn't rise in place of its predecessors.

Further Notes

- Make sure you address the audience and sound genuine, so that it doesn't sound like you copy and pasted all the things you're going to say.
- Use transition words and facts to make the notes flow together.
- Plan your time and rehearse to make sure you don't go over ten minutes and that you can remember your notes pretty well. It's okay to look at the notes occasionally.
- Make sure to elaborate on the points you talk about and say the key points several times.
- Give a memorable and inspiring ending about how we must do more than our previous means of civil rights advocacy if we want to stop racial under caste in its tracks.