Introduction paragraph:

* Hook (H)
* Background (B)
* Background (B)
* Background (B)
* Claim: your position WITH your three pieces of evidence (E1, E2, E3)

Evidence #1 Paragraph

* Evidence (E1)
* Warrant (W1)
* Backing (B1)
* In-text citation

Evidence #2 Paragraph

* Transition and evidence (T, E2)
* Warrant (W2)
* Backing (B2)
* In-text citation

In our modern world, many think racists and bigots are few and far between **(H)**. After all, we have come so far since the days of slavery, or the days when women could own land or vote **(B)**. However, prejudice is alive and well in all of us **(B)**. The societies in which we live help shape how we feel about other groups of people **(B)**. Societal prejudice is spread through the media **(E1)**, through cultural activities **(E2)**, and through elected political leaders **(E3) (Claim).**

The media we encounter has a strong influence on our beliefs **(E1)**. This is not a new thing. In Germany, in the years Hitler and the Nazis were gaining power, Hitler used movies, books, and other print media to paint the Jews as the enemy of true Germans (Antill, 27) **(W1).** The message he was able to spread in the media explains, also, how soldiers could treat Jews so cruelly, forcing them to lay on the ground while they took all of their jewelry and other possessions (Yolen, 81) **(B1).** Hitler needed his soldiers and citizens to hate to Jews in order for his Final Solution to work, so he used the media to spread the message of hate.

Another way in which society influences prejudice **(T)** is through the cultural activities popular within the society **(E2)**. In music, literature, and movies, many stereotypes are upheld **(W2).**  For example, the *Twilight* series*,* a popular book and movie series, upholds the stereotype that women are helpless and need their boyfriends or husbands in order to survive (Mendleson, huffingtonpost.com) **(B2)**. Though this idea is very old-fashioned, millions of people flocked to bookstores and theaters to devour this story, a story which encourages gender stereotypes. Women’s Rights leaders fought long and hard to eradicate such stereotypes. Books and movies have the ability to bring such stereotypes right back into society.

Evidence #3 Paragraph

* Transition and evidence (T, E3)
* Warrant (W3)
* Backing (B3)
* In-text citation

Counter-Argument and Rebuttal Paragraph

* Address counter-argument (CA)
* Rebuttal of CA (Reb)

Conclusion

* Wrap-up
* Summarize major ideas in the essay in a new way (S)
* Summarize (S)
* Summarize (S)
* Leave reader thinking (RT)

Finally **(T)**, political leaders societies elect influence prejudice because the officials in power create legislation that highlights their own prejudice **(E3)**. For example, in the early 1960s, Bull Conner was elected as Public Safety Commissioner in Birmingham, Alabama seven terms in a row. Conner was extremely racist and worked hard to ensure segregation stayed alive and well in his city **(W3)**. His prejudice spread to the citizens of the city, and made Birmingham one of the most dangerous cities in America for African- Americans (Joiner, thedailybeast.com) **(B3)**. Such leaders had the power to create such prejudice through the way in which they governed and the messages they shared with their supporters.

Many will say that prejudice is not a major problem anymore.They argue that in today’s society, people are enlightened and have been taught to understand others’ perspectives. They argue that prejudice is something from the past that no longer affects modern society **(CA).** That is simply not true. One only needs to turn on the news to see example after example of prejudice **(Reb).** Prejudice is what led to hundreds of girls being kidnapped by Boko Haram because they feel girls should not receive an education (Time.com). With events like that occurring, prejudice is still alive and well in society.

Although prejudice is not as widespread as it once was, it is still a major issue today (**WU).**  Every day, citizens in communities are exposed to media **(S)**, movies **(S)** and books, and political leaders who spread their ideas of what society should be **(S)**. Their influence is so great, that many cannot see the prejudice that looms beneath the surface **(S)**. Their messages can be so convincing, that even the most civilized of societies can allow horrible atrocities to happen to the targets of their prejudice. The only way to truly end prejudice is to continue educating people on its destructive power **(RT)**.