(Insert title here that hints at the thesis)

Humans talk to each other every day but how often is it to **(how can one) fight discrimination and change society’s views?** The movie, *The Help,* written by Kathryn Stockett and directed by Tate Taylor, is a story set in the 1960’s in Mississippi, southern United States. Set in a time before the movement for the rights of African Americans began, the effects of racial discrimination is the predominate theme. The protagonist, Skeeter, is not a direct victim of discrimination, being a young white women, but notices and is aware of the discrimination happening in her town. “The Danger of Silence” is a spoken word poem by Clint Smith. Smith is a teacher, writer, and researcher who grew up in New Orleans. Even though he grew up in a modern society, he still encountered many forms of discrimination. After going through mistakes and troubles of his own, he now understands that he needed speak up to make a difference**. Both the characters in *The Help* and the speaker in the “Danger of Silence” tell a story of fighting against discrimination in society. In *The Help*, Skeeter raises awareness of racial discrimination by showing the African American Helps’ point of view. “The Danger of Silence” differs in how the speaker teaches his students to use the privilege of their voices to stand up. Ultimately, both express one voice can fight back against injustice. (or I can express that one source is better than the other)**

Background info for both

Title of the source and the author. Be sure to format the title properly

Clint Smith fights discrimination and tries to change society’s views by teaching his students to “tell your truth” (Smith, :26) in their writing and their life, yet he finds he does not follow his own teachings. Smith used to keep silent in the face of conflict or controversy. For example, he did not speak up for the gay student who was beaten by a peer: “When Christian was beat up for being gay, I put my hands in my pocket and walked with my head down as if I didn’t even notice” (Smith, 1:27). He also kept silent when a woman at a fundraising gala insulted his students. He responded by “biting my lip, because apparently we needed her money more than my students needed their dignity” (Smith, 2:51). In both cases, he kept silent when he knew he was perpetuating the problem by not voicing his concerns. He soon learned to realize that silence was the “residue of fear” (Smith, 2:53) and gives examples such as the events of Hurricane Katrina and Rwanda. He knows to be true to himself so he vows, “I will not let silence wrap itself around my indecision” and “live everyday like I have a microphone under my tongue, a stage on the underside of my inhibition” (Smith, 3:27). Smith, through this spoken word, is living out the ideals he has set for his students: to live their truth by speaking out against discrimination and injustice.

Try to vary your word choices. See underlined words- can you find a better word?

Full sentence to integrate the quote means using a colon.

Because this is a “snippet” of the quote, no capital is needed and no comma

Prune the “deadwood”. Is there a more concise way to express the underlined words?

Use a comma here as it is introducing a full quote but the intro is not a full sentence.

Body paragraph for *The Help*.

(Conclusion)

**In conclusion**, both the spoken word poem by Clint Smith and the character Skeeter in the movie *The Help* directed by Tate Taylor show that the first step in fighting injustice is to voice concern and stand up for the rights of others. Smith corrects his own behaviour and vows to speak out when he sees the wrong in society. Despite the Jim Crow laws, Skeeter collects and publishes the stories of the African American “help” to raise awareness of the racism and oppression in Jackson, Mississippi at the hands of the white women. It could be argued that the impact of Skeeter’s voice on her community is stronger than Smith’s but this should not diminish the fact that sometimes even one voice that stands up in the name of justice, may force a society to re-evaluate the unfair treatment of others.