**The Patriot Act of 2001: Just or Unjust?**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote in his *Letter from a Birmingham City Jail*, “One has not only a legal, but a moral responsibility to obey just laws. Conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws.” We will apply this principle to a U.S. law, the Patriot Act of 2001. The objective of this assignment is to think critically about a current and relevant law.

**PART I:**

In triads, analyze all four sections of the Patriot Act. For each section, discuss whether it is:

Just/Good for Society

Unjust/Good for Society

Just/Bad for Society

Unjust/Bad for Society

Every person in the triad must contribute to the discussion of each section and must be able to justify his/her opinion. Consider this discussion your brainstorming or prewriting for the written part of the assignment.

Each student will then write an explanation that must include evidence of thoughtful analysis for each of the four sections of the Patriot Act (one paragraph per section = four total). This must be typed. Be prepared to discuss your justifications in class for a grade.

**PART II:**

Read the article: *So What Does the USA Freedom Act Do Anyway?* and analyze the Freedom Act of 2015. Then make a personal evaluation: should this Act have ever been passed or not, and why? Also, based on your personal evaluation, how do you think it could benefit or harm future America/Americans, and why? (~1 page, typed). Be prepared to discuss this in class for a grade.