**Human Rights - Class Discussion Questions**

1. What is meant by the term “human rights” ?
2. Provide examples of some fundamental human rights.
3. Provide examples of human rights violations.
4. What is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?
5. Student Opinions – Are human rights universal i.e. the same for all people throughout the world? Or should human rights legislation consider “cultural relativism”?

***[“Cultural Relativism: All Truth Is Local*** *Cultural Relativism is the view that moral or ethical systems, which vary from culture to culture, are all equally valid and no one system is really “better” than any other. This is based on the idea that there is no ultimate standard of good or evil, so every judgment about right and wrong is a product of society. Therefore, any opinion on morality or ethics is subject to the cultural perspective of each person. Ultimately, this means that no moral or ethical system can be considered the “best,” or “worst,” and no particular moral or ethical position can actually be considered “right” or “wrong.” ]*

Source: <http://www.allaboutphilosophy.org/cultural-relativism.htm>

1. Discuss some of the key historical reasons (and developments) for the improvement of human rights protection and legislation.
2. Identify some key human rights issues in wealthy and developed countries. Why do those issues remain unresolved?
3. Identify some key human rights issues in poor and developing countries. Why do those issues remain unresolved? Provide reasons for why human rights are more difficult to protect in poorer countries.
4. What have been some of the successes of the international community and NGOs in protecting human rights? Provide specific examples.
5. What have been some of the failures (as well as ongoing challenges) of the international community and NGOs in protecting human rights? Provide specific examples. Why are there still difficulties and obstacles in terms of protecting the human rights of all the world’s people?
6. If possible, briefly discuss the human rights situation in a specific country. Provide examples of cultural attitudes, controversial issues, reasons given to deny full human rights to certain groups etc.