**English 1201- To Kill a Mockingbird Analytical Essay**

Write a two-three page analytical essay on one of the topics below. Your paper must include a clear introduction with thesis statement; a well-organized body separated by paragraphs with topic sentences; and a distinct conclusion. Your paper must refer extensively to the novel using quotes, referring to themes, symbols, characterization, setting etc where appropriate.  The essay will also have a small research component related to the topic.  You will be expected to integrate the appropriate research into your essay response.

Please note: this is an analytical paper, not a plot summary.  Your audience (your teacher) has already read this book numerous times so you do not need to explain everything that happens, instead you must address the prompt and analyze the novel.

Paper Format:  Paper is MLA format, it must be typed, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, include appropriate page numbering (ie. Etsell 1. ) You must include at least three different sources (one will be the novel itself). See Purdue Owl for MLA formatting guide. No cover page is required, but student name, course, teacher name and date must be on the first page in the top left corner.  The paper requires an original title to be centered on the first page.  You will use in text citations for any information that is not regarded “common knowledge”  and all sources must be appropriately documented on the Works Cited page.

You will receive a work package to help guide you through the prewriting and writing steps.  Please have this available for your teacher.

The essay will be scored using the provincial analytical essay rubric (/10 for composition; /10 for content)

Essay Prompts:  Choose 1 of the following prompts.

1. What is Atticus’s relationship to the rest of Maycomb? What is his role in the community? For research you may tie in something on prominent white people who supported integration / civil rights in the United States or Canada.

2.  Analyze the author’s treatment of Boo Radley. What is his role in the novel? For the research element consider how mental illness was treated / regarded in the 1930’s-1940’s - this could be an exploration of medical treatments, institutions, common practices, etc.

3.  What role did Calpurnia play in the lives of the finch family?  How was she regarded? In your research consider the role of black workers in the deep south during this era.  How were they treated and paid, etc...?

4.  What was the reaction of the community to the Tom Robinson trial?  What assumptions were made?  What was the atmosphere leading up to, during and afterwards?  The research here could include something on how accused blacks were treated in the justice system-  you may investigate a famous trial like The Scottsboro Boys, and illustrate the connections to Tom Robinson’s trial.

Steps for success

1. Choose a prompt
2. Complete the prewriting and early writing steps (graphic organizers, drafting, editing, researching) in the booklet provided.
3. Complete your paper in good copy (typed, MLA format etc)
4. Hand in a hard copy to your teacher by the established due date.