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*To Kill a Mockingbird* Evidence and Outline

**Typed Final Essay Due:**

**Thursday, March 13, 2014**

Essay Writing Checklist (6 Steps):

1. Choose topic
2. Write thesis statement
3. **Outline supporting ideas**
4. **Gather evidence/brainstorm analysis**
5. Complete introduction, body, and conclusion
6. Publish in MLA format

Here is a reminder of the four prompts below.

1. Atticus teaches his children not to judge others until they have “climbed into other people’s skin and walked around.” Why is it so difficult for other people in our society (past and present) to adopt this idea? Why do we continue to hold prejudices against others? Discuss in an essay using examples from *To Kill a Mockingbird,* from the news, from current events, or from other texts we have read.
2. Scout is expected to act a certain way because she is a girl. In a well-developed essay, describe the way gender expectations can have a strong impact on the people we become. What happens when we do not meet these expectations? Have these expectations changed? Use examples from *To Kill a Mockingbird,* from the news, from current events, or from other texts we have read.
3. One of the novel’s major themes is the contrast between protecting innocent people and accusing them of being guilty for something they are not. Harper Lee calls these characters “mockingbirds.” Find examples of characters from the novel that illustrate this theme. Also include examples from the news, current events, or other articles we have read that show how society still struggles with this issue.
4. Scout and Jem (in different ways) demonstrate the way our view of the world changes as we grow up and become more mature. In a well-written essay, explain the reasons why growing up can change the way that we view the world, and how this can affect our ideas of other people. Use examples from *To Kill a Mockingbird,* from the news, from current events, or from other texts we have read.
* I have chosen to write about prompt letter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Write the thesis statement you wrote on Tuesday on the lines below:

My thesis statement: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

After you have written a thesis statement, it is time to organize your essay and gather information to support the claim that you made in your thesis. You will need to come up with at **least three topics** that justify the claim that you made. Later, these will become the topic sentences for your three body paragraphs.See the example below:

Fill in the chart below with your own information. Write your thesis statement, then come up with three main topics that can support your claim.

After you have chosen your three topics (which will be the main ideas of each of your body paragraphs), it is time to search for evidence to support them. Remember evidence can be a direct quote (copying word-for-word a sentence or two from the book or news article and writing it in quotation marks), or it can be your own words explaining an event from the novel or article. Each one of your body paragraphs needs at least one piece of evidence, but more evidence can make your essay even stronger. See the chart below:

**Thesis statement:** Jem struggles to maintain his trust in humanity as he continues to encounter prejudice, hypocrisy, and injustice throughout the novel.

Now, complete your own table by providing evidence for each topic. You will later include this evidence in each of your body paragraphs.

**Thesis statement:**