To Kill a Mockingbird - Final Essay

**TASK:** Annotate, take notes and/or highlight in your copy of the novel (or on post-its/a notebook) throughout your reading to prepare for the writing of this essay. You will choose **ONE** prompt and write an essay.

* You will need to create a **strong thesis statement** (subject + opinion) concerning the subject that you chose and then do an **outline** of your essay BEFORE you begin writing it.
* Build an **introductory paragraph** around your thesis statement. Start with an attention-grabbing opening sentence. Provide some background information on the novel and be sure to mention the title of the novel, correctly punctuated, and the author’s whole name.
* Your **3 body paragraphs** should support your thesis, and include concrete details (quotes from the book. 2 per body par.), and each concrete detail should have at least two sentences of commentary (explaining in your words why the concrete detail illustrates the thesis).
* Your **concluding paragraph** should relate back to your thesis but not repeat/restate points you’ve already made. Try to go BEYOND summary to insight – what makes your essay and this novel so important? End with a final, powerful comment that relates to the importance of the novel and your essay.

**REMEMBER…**proofread and edit carefully for mechanical errors.

 **\*** ESSAY MUST BE 12 point, Times New Roman font, double-spaced

 \* Give essay an ORIGNAL TITLE

\* This must be a 5-paragraph essay with 3 body paragraphs to support the thesis

\* Follow MLA format & FORMAL WRITING RULES

***Essay Prompt choices on Page 2!***

To Kill a Mockingbird - Final Essay Prompts

Select ONE of the following essay prompts and write a five-paragraph essay.

#1 What important life lessons can we learn from the novel? Consider Lee’s emphasis on values (what is important), morals (what is good or bad) and ethics (what is right or wrong). Give examples of qualities in characters and situations to support your position. Think about the lessons Scout and Jem learned throughout the novel. What can we learn from Atticus?

#2 Why is the book titled *To Kill a Mockingbird*? Provide examples from the book (Tom, Dill, Boo, etc.) to explain the meaning of the title and the reasons for its use. Think about what Scout meant when she said “…would be kind of like killing a mockingbird.”

#3 After reading this novel we can see how important Martin Luther King and the Civil Right’s Movement of the 1960’s as well as the Woman’s Movement of the 1970’s were to the history of our country. In your paper discuss the attitudes, ethics, values, and prejudices shown in this book with regard to either or both of these issues (racism and/or the place of women in society). In your conclusion you might want to include how far we have come since the 1930’s and/or how far we still have to go.

#4 What is courage, and why is it an important character trait? Discuss the different examples of courage (physical, emotional, moral) that are shown in the novel.

#5 Analyze Harper Lee’s portrayal of education in *To Kill a Mockingbird*

#6 How does Harper Lee use minor characters in *To Kill a Mockingbird* to explore some of the main concerns of the novel?