

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

# To Kill a Mockingbird Research Paper • 2016

## What you'll be doing this week...

Each student in eighth grade will select one of the three topics provided to research. We will be using the same process you have practiced in both sixth and seventh grade: note-taking, listing different facts in 'bullet point' format; deciding what your paper will focus on; deciding the theme of each paragraph; coding the facts to fit the themes of your paragraphs; writing a rough draft and then typing a final draft. You will include a bibliography. This year, however, you will now decide the themes of each paragraph, instead of your teacher. As an eighth grader, you will be making your own choices about how and what to write, while still using the same research process. **There is one requirement for you to follow though: after presenting an overview and facts about your subject, you shall eventually illustrate how your topic is incorporated into the book To Kill a Mockingbird.**

**Your research paper should be a minimum of seven paragraphs.** You will be given class time in the LMC and lab to take notes (in 'bullet point' format) on your topic, using a variety of resources. Everyone should begin with the same source: World Book Online, and include a bibliography from the article you use. After your note-taking is done, you will organize and code all of your points, to start forming paragraphs and then assembling a rough draft. In addition to the paper, you will also compose a bibliography, citing four of the sources that you've used for research.

Grading for the project: **You will receive three grades:** one for your daily progress (checkmarks each day); one for your bibliography; and one for your final research paper.

## **Writing Process: please check when completed, and do in order**

- \_\_\_\_\_ : Use **WBO** to find a general article on your topic. Write a bibliography for the article you use.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : Use **WBO** to find the article on **To Kill a Mockingbird**. Take notes if applicable, and write a bib.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : Use your **Social Studies textbook**, if applicable, and write a bib.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : Use **Mr. Alderman's class notes**, if applicable, and write a bib.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : Use **Mrs. Aloisio's class notes**, if applicable, and write a bib.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : Use the **card catalog** to find any books (including print encyclopedias), and write bibs
- \_\_\_\_\_ : Use the **Mockingbird link** on the LMC website, to find additional web pages, and write bibs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : Use any of the databases on the **Online Database link** on the LMC website, to find magazine and newspaper articles, and write bibs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : Use **Google** to find additional websites on your own. Search specifically for information you're missing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : Decide on theme of paragraphs, developing a progression from beginning to end of paper.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : Decide on a coding system, (abbreviations or numbers) and code each point. Question marks for undecided points are acceptable, and deleting points that don't fit anywhere is fine too.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : Using your codes, start writing a rough draft, putting points in paragraphs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : Put together a rough draft of your bibliography, listing sources in ABC order.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : Finish rough drafts of both your paper and bibliography, and have them peer-proofed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : Show Mrs. Aloisio your rough draft, for her approval to move on to a final draft.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : Type a final draft of both your paper and bibliography using Google Docs.

## Examples of theme development and/or opening paragraphs:

**#1:** The **Great Depression** that occurred in the United States in the 1930s greatly affected how most Americans lived. Many people were thrust into poverty, and lost their life savings during the Stock Market Crash that happened during 1929. The Great Depression is referenced through the book, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Many of the main characters do not appear to have automobiles or bikes, and rarely speak of shopping or extravagances. Instead, there are many references included that illustrate how poor the farmers are especially. For example, the community allows members of the Ewell family to hunt out of season, simply so they can put food on the table.

**#2: Jim Crow** laws were instituted in the southern United States from about 1890 to 1965. The laws enforced racial segregation, and were supposed to ensure 'separate but equal' status to all African American citizens. All public facilities were segregated, including schools, restaurants and forms of public transportation like busses. The laws failed to protect equality among races, however. Whites received better treatment throughout the south, while African Americans continued to be treated like second class citizens. In the novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, attorney Atticus Finch (white) agrees to defend Tom Robinson (black) despite living in a deeply segregated town in Alabama. Finch strategically protests Jim Crow laws in a variety of ways, from defending a black man accused of assaulting a white women, to treating his housekeeper Calpurnia as one of the family.

## Paragraph or Section Guide\*\*\*

**First:** *Introduction: describe the topic for your audience and set the tone for the rest of the paper... also mention how your topic is incorporated into the novel To Kill a Mockingbird.*

\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_

**Middle:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_

**Last:** *Wrap up and summarize*

\*\*\*Note: The above guide is VERY flexible. Please add or delete paragraphs as needed, but make sure each paragraph has a clear theme and helps develop the overall focus of the paper. **The first few paragraphs should introduce your topic and provide supporting facts, so that your audience has a thorough understanding of your subject. The last 2-3 paragraphs should focus on how your subject is incorporated into the book To Kill a Mockingbird.** Not all facts taken during the note-taking process need to be included. Delete facts that don't fit with the paper's focus or a paragraph's theme. Edit yourself throughout the writing process.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

## To Kill a Mockingbird • Bibliography

### Source 1

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### Source 2

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### Source 3

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### Source 4

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### Sample Bibliography

Alvers, Nicholas. Stock Market Crash. Jan. 2006. 22 Sep. 2009  
<<http://www.newdeal.feri.org/index.htm>>.

Bowers, Chris. "Great Depression." Encyclopedia Americana. 2000.

Deverell, William and Deborah Gray White. United States History. Austin; Holt, Rinehart and Winston. 2009.

Mitchener, Kris James. "Great Depression." *World Book Student*. World Book, 2015. Web. 7 Apr. 2015.

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### Top three things to remember, when writing a bibliography:

- Put entries in alphabetical order
- Reverse indent (first line starts at margin, every additional line is indented 5 spaces)
- Do not number entries