***To Kill a Mockingbird*- Prompts**

1. In the novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, one of the main characters, Atticus, gives a voice to the voiceless. Use modern day examples, through research, of individuals who fought for the rights of others, consequently, giving a voice to the voiceless.

* Present, analyze, and develop the plight/hardship of the individuals who were overlooked in society, voiceless, and the individuals who fought to change or improve their condition.
* **Discuss at least TWO individuals** who have attempted or successfully fought for change, recognition, or improvement.
* **Make reference to Atticus in the paper**; however, this is not a literary analysis.
* Use proper MLA and include at least **one quotation in every body paragraph**
* Proper **MLA heading, header** (last name and page number), **12 font**, and **self-created title.**
* Works cited is required for all sources (easybib.com)

**Definitions**

**Plight** (n) a dangerous, difficult, or otherwise unfortunate situation

**Persecution (n)** hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race or political or religious

beliefs

**Predicament** (n) a difficult, unpleasant, or embarrassing situation

**Injustice** (n) lack of fairness or justice

**Tyranny** (n) cruel and oppressive government or rule

**Oppression** (n) prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or control

*To Kill a Mockingbird* Essay Prewrite

**Introductions = hook, background information, thesis**

**Writing a Developed and Detailed Introduction**

You know your introduction needs a clear claim/thesis statement. But what else do you put in the paragraph? To answer that question, think about the purpose of an introduction:

* Introduce your topic
* Create interest
* Provide necessary background information
* Identify your main idea
* Preview the rest of your essay

Your thesis statement will identify your main idea and preview the rest of your essay. Remember that this should be one sentence. You will place your thesis at the end of your introduction paragraph. You can use the other sentences in your introduction to introduce your topic, create interest, and provide necessary background information.

Types of Hooks:

* ANECDOTE An anecdote is a short story. It can be a story about your own experience or someone else’s experience. Use an anecdote to make a point.
  + Example: The other morning, Danny— who just got his license last month—was driving to school. Danny’s cell phone started beeping and he checked the incoming text message, dropping the toast he was eating and nearly driving off the road in the process.
* QUOTE A quote, or quotation, is a passage that you use in your own writing that was originally written or spoken by someone else. You indicate a quote by putting quotation marks around it and acknowledging its source.
  + Example: “We were always together, but not as much after she got her license,” Gayle Bell says. “If I could bring her back I’d lasso the moon.” Bell’s 16-year-old daughter, Jessie, rolled her car into a ditch and died in 2003.
* DROP YOUR READER INTO A SCENE Use sensory details to describe a scene, giving your reader an immediate sense of time and place.
  + Example: A video about defensive driving drones from the TV at the front of the darkened classroom. It’s warm, and several of the teenagers have drifted off to sleep. Others quietly text their friends, their cell phones glowing between their cupped hands.
* SURPRISING FACT A surprising fact is an interesting piece of information that your readers aren’t likely to know. It’s a statement that will make your readers say, “Really?”
  + Example: The rate of crashes for 16-year-old drivers is almost 10 times the rate for older drivers.
* RHETORICAL QUESTION A rhetorical question is a statement in the form of a question. You ask a rhetorical question to make a point, not to get an answer. THIS QUESTION SHOULD NOT BE IN SECOND PERSON – AKA: Do NOT use YOU!!
  + Example: What’s more important: Driving at the age of sixteen or saving lives?

The background information should connect your hook to the thesis/claim. This might mean further explanation on terminology, an introduction to the genre in this case, or maybe come background information on the texts you will discuss.

Hook (should include something about Atticus):

Background Information (Should tie your hook about Atticus to the two people you are writing about):

**Your claim: (make sure that you answer the prompt and that you have TWO subtopics to address in your body paragraphs – your subtopics should be the two people who give a voice to the voiceless.)**

CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE 1 – In Class

Topic sentence – Who is someone who gives a voice to the voiceless? Should be first person from your claim.

Evidence from research to back up topic sentence 1 (blended and cited properly)

Reasoning – How does this example back up your topic sentence?

CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE 2 – At Home

Topic sentence – Who is someone who gives a voice to the voiceless? Should be first person from your claim.

Evidence from research to back up topic sentence 1 (blended and cited properly)

Reasoning – How does this example back up your topic sentence?

**Conclusions**

**Your conclusion should consist of three pieces**

1. **Restate the thesis in new words**
2. **Connect back to the hook (brings your paper full circle)**
3. **Answer the SO WHAT? Question – why is this topic beneficial to all people?**

Restate the thesis in new words:

Relate back to the hook (about Atticus):

So what? Why is this topic important? Why is it important to give a voice to the voiceless?

**Works Cited Page (from Perdue OWL)**

**Basic rules**

* Begin your Works Cited page on a separate page at the end of your research paper. It should have the same one-inch margins and last name, page number header as the rest of your paper.
* Label the page Works Cited (do not italicize the words Works Cited or put them in quotation marks) and center the words Works Cited at the top of the page.
* Double space all citations, but do not skip spaces between entries.
* Indent the second and subsequent lines of citations by 0.5 inches to create a hanging indent.
* List page numbers of sources efficiently, when needed. If you refer to a journal article that appeared on pages 225 through 250, list the page numbers on your Works Cited page as 225-50. Note that MLA style uses a hyphen in a span of pages.
* If you're citing an article or a publication that was originally issued in print form but that you retrieved from an online database, you should type the online database name in italics. You do not need to provide subscription information in addition to the database name.

**Work with no known author**

Alphabetize works with no known author by their title; use a shortened version of the title in the parenthetical citations in your paper. In this case, Boring Postcards USA has no known author:

Baudrillard, Jean. *Simulacra and Simulations*. [...]

*Boring Postcards USA*. [...]

Burke, Kenneth. *A Rhetoric of Motives*. [...]

**Basic Book Format**

The author’s name or a book with a single author's name appears in last name, first name format. The basic form for a book citation is:

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.

It is always a good idea to maintain personal copies of electronic information, when possible. It is good practice to print or save web pages or, better, use a program like Adobe Acrobat to keep your own copies for future reference. Most web browsers will include URL/electronic address information when you print, which makes later reference easy. Also, you might use the Bookmark function in your web browser in order to return to documents more easily.

