

Literary Analysis:
To Kill a Mockingbird

In a well-developed, multi-paragraph essay, respond to ONE of the prompts below. You may choose the prompt. We will type this essay in class and submit it on MYAccess. (MAKE SURE YOU SUBMIT IT ON THE CORRECT ESSAY PROMPT!)

Prompt Option #1

Name: The Use of Metaphor in *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Prompt: A dominant motif, or recurring thematic idea, in Harper Lee's novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, is the symbolic importance of the mockingbird. In the story, Atticus tells his children, "...it is a sin to kill a mockingbird."

In a well-developed essay, explain how Atticus Finch, Tom Robinson, and Boo Radley are metaphorically portrayed as mockingbirds. Give specific examples and quotes to support these characterizations.

Prompt Option #2

Name: Prejudice in *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Prompt: In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, there are occurrences of different kinds of prejudice. In a well-developed essay, provide evidence to support this statement. Remember to include specific details and examples from the novel in your essay.

As you write, remember your essay will be scored based on how well you

- Develop a multi-paragraph response to the assigned topic that clearly communicates your thesis to the audience.
- Support your thesis with meaningful examples and references from the text, carefully citing any direct quotes (EVIDENCE!)
- Organize your essay in a clear and logical manner, including an introduction, body, and conclusion.
- Use well-structured sentences and language that are appropriate to your audience.
- Edit your work to conform to the conventions of standard American English.

Outline: Five Paragraph Essay

To Kill a Mockinbird Literary Analysis (Prewriting)

Title _____

I. Introduction

"The Hook" (a quote, fact, question, interesting statement...something to grab the reader's attention)

Introduce topic (transition from hook to thesis; INCLUDE TITLE AND AUTHOR) _____

Thesis statement: _____ + _____
Topic *Opinion*

reasons/examples _____, _____,
A *B*
and _____ . (The thesis is the last sentence of the intro.)
C

II. Body Paragraph 1 (reason/example A)

A. Topic sentence _____

1. Concrete detail (a quote from the novel with the page # in parentheses at the end of the sentence)

_____ ().

a. Commentary _____

b. Commentary _____

2. Concrete detail (an incident or example from the novel) _____

a. Commentary _____

b. Commentary _____

B. Conclusion _____

III. Body Paragraph 2 (reason/example B)

C. Topic sentence _____

1. Concrete detail (a quote from the novel with the page # in parentheses at the end of the sentence)

_____ ().

a. Commentary _____

b. Commentary _____

2. Concrete detail (an incident or example from the novel) _____

a. Commentary _____

b. Commentary _____

D. Conclusion _____

****Hint for smoother transitions between body paragraphs:**

Make the first HALF of the conclusion sentence a wrap-up of the *current* paragraph, and have the second HALF of the sentence include the topic for the *next* paragraph.

Example: Atticus can be seen as a mockingbird because of the evil gossip spread about him by the people of Maycomb County; in this respect, he has much in common with Boo Radley.

See! The first body paragraph was about Atticus Finch, and the next will be about Boo Radley. It makes for a beautiful transition from one section to the next.

IV. Body Paragraph 3 (reason/example C)

E. Topic sentence _____

1. Concrete detail (a quote from the novel with the page # in parentheses at the end of the sentence)

_____ ().

a. Commentary _____

b. Commentary _____

2. Concrete detail (an incident or example from the novel) _____

a. Commentary _____

b. Commentary _____

F. Conclusion _____

V. Conclusion

Restate thesis _____

“The Punch” _____

Last of all, you need to include a Works Cited entry for your book. Because you have referenced quotes and page numbers in your paper, you need to let your reader know exactly where those quotes came from.

Book Entry—MLA Citation

(Fill in the blanks with your information. The punctuation appears exactly the way it should on the Works Cited page.)

_____, _____.
Author last name *Author first name.*

_____. _____:
Title of book (underlined or italicized) *City of publication*

_____, _____.
Publishing company *Year of publication*

