Choose ONE of the following topics for your essay over the book *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

1. Examine the theme of prejudice in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. How is prejudice demonstrated in the story and by whom? What is the author’s underlying message about prejudice? Analyze at least three significant moments in the text or three characters dealing with that theme.
   ➔ Consider prejudice in relation to racism, social status, and sexism.

2. Harper Lee suggests that real courage is the ability to stand up for what you believe in. Explain how the children’s (Scout’s and Jem’s) ideas about courage change throughout the novel, beginning with what they consider to be courage and showing how that evolves to the point where they finally come to understand that real courage is standing up for what is right despite the risks or sacrifices of doing so. Analyze at least three significant moments in the text or three characters dealing with the theme of courage.

3. A recurring symbol in the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* is the story Atticus tells his children, “...it is a sin to kill a mockingbird.” Explain this metaphor and analyze the ways in which Atticus Finch, Tom Robinson, and Boo Radley are all metaphorically portrayed as mockingbirds. In your response, be sure to indicate how each of these characters face prejudice and how each is similar to a mockingbird.

**DUE DATES:** Thesis Statement, Outline, Rough Draft, Final Draft

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Wed- 2/8</th>
<th>Thurs- 2/9</th>
<th>Fri 2/10</th>
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<td>Mon- 2/13</td>
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<td>Outline due on Google Classroom by midnight.</td>
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<td>Tues- 2/14</td>
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<td>Novel Discussion</td>
<td>Work Day</td>
<td>Work Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rough Draft due on Google Classroom by midnight.</td>
<td>Proofreading/ Peer Editing</td>
<td>Final Draft due in class.</td>
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</table>
Writing a Thesis Statement

A literary thesis includes the author’s name and title of the work along with what you are going to prove.

BAD EXAMPLE
➔ There are many examples of the theme of ____________ in Harper Lee’s To Kill a Mockingbird.

GOOD EXAMPLES
➔ While the children in Harper Lee’s To Kill a Mockingbird novel value heroism and courage that involves physical strength, the novel ultimately demonstrates that greater courage resides in those who summon inner strength to fight moral and spiritual battles.

➔ In the novel, To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee shows the destructive power of prejudice through the racism shown to ____________, sexism portrayed through ____________, and social status shown through Boo Radley.

➔ In the novel, To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee compares Atticus Finch, Tom Robinson, and Boo Radley to mockingbirds to show that innocent men are victims of society’s prejudice.

Write your own thesis statement:

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
Paper Requirements

CONTENT
➔ Clear introduction, body, and conclusion that supports and proves your thesis.
➔ Clear thesis statement that includes title of work, author’s name, assertion about your topic.
➔ Incorporate six pieces (at least two per body paragraph) of textual evidence to support the thesis statement and topic of that paragraph.
➔ Follow the eight sentence (or more) body paragraph format
   ◆ Topic Sentence, Detail, Commentary (2), Detail, Commentary (2), Concluding sentence
   ● Commentary should elaborate and refer back to the significance of the examples. What does the example show? Illustrate? Suggest?
   ● Refrain from calling a quote a “quote.” Use passage, example, scene, etc…

FORMATTING
➔ 600- 750 words (2-3 typed pages), double spaced
➔ Typed, Times New Roman, 12 pt font with 1 inch margins
➔ MLA format paper and parenthetical references (in-text citations)
➔ All quotes need a transitional statement and/or a lead-in (situation/speaker). No FLOATING quotes.

LANGUAGE
➔ Your commentary must not include first person. No: I, me, my opinion, we…etc. Use a person, one, people, the reader, the audience… to stay objective.
➔ Avoid contractions. Use a variety of transitions. Use effective word choice.

Key Transitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admittedly</th>
<th>Consequentially</th>
<th>In addition</th>
<th>Yet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assuredly</td>
<td>Even so</td>
<td>In fact</td>
<td>Still</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certainly</td>
<td>Furthermore</td>
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<td>Obviously</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Moreover</th>
<th>Therefore</th>
<th>Unquestionably</th>
<th>Clearly, then</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nevertheless</td>
<td>Thus</td>
<td>The fact remains</td>
<td>Granted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No doubt</td>
<td>To be sure</td>
<td>Undoubtedly</td>
<td>It is true that</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OUTLINE FORMAT

I. Introduction
   a. Write your thesis statement here.

II. Main Point #1
   a. Topic Sentence:
      i. Evidence: Write a quote here that supports your main point #1 (Page Number).
      ii. Commentary: Commentary should elaborate and refer back to the significance of the examples. What does the example show? Illustrate? Suggest? ---Write at least 2 sentences here.
      iii. Evidence: Write a quote here that supports your main point #1 (Page Number).
      iv. Commentary: Commentary should elaborate and refer back to the significance of the examples. What does the example show? Illustrate? Suggest? How does your quote support your thesis? --Write at least 2 sentences here.
   v. Concluding Sentence:

III. Main Point #2
   a. Topic Sentence:
      i. Evidence:
         1. Commentary:
         2. Commentary:
      ii. Evidence:
         1. Commentary:
         2. Commentary:
      iii. Concluding Sentence:

IV. Main Point #3
   a. Topic Sentence:
      i. Evidence:
         1. Commentary:
         2. Commentary:
      ii. Evidence:
         1. Commentary:
         2. Commentary:
      iii. Concluding Sentence:

V. Conclusion
Sample portion of an argumentative essay

… Although many would argue that Dill’s character could easily be removed from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, this presence actually plays a major role in conveying the novel’s themes.

It is true that the reader has very little information on Dill’s family or upbringing. The reader can only gather small pieces of information about Dill’s family life in Meridian, Mississippi from his brief conversations with Scout. However, it is specifically those short conversations the help to demonstrate the novel’s theme of importance of family and role models. After Dill runs away from home and hides in the Finch house under Scout’s bed, he confides to Scout that his parents “just wasn’t interested in [him]” (Lee 143). Scout, having been raised in a loving home by an attentive father cannot understand his situation. She comments, “This was the weirdest reason for flight I had ever heard” (143). Scout is so used to the attentive parenting that she receives from Atticus and Calpurnia that Dill’s running away makes no sense to her. She later tells Dill, “You don’t want’em around you all the time…” (143). Dill disagrees.

*This paragraph continues with further examples and explanation*
To Kill a Mockingbird Essay Rubric

Each category will be graded on a 5-point scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5=Excellent</th>
<th>4=Good</th>
<th>3=Fair</th>
<th>2=Poor</th>
<th>1=Inadequate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. _____ Paper begins with a formal literary attention getting opener.

2. _____ Introduction contains an effective transition into the thesis.

3. _____ Paper contains a thesis statement that addresses the theme of the paper and follows all formal writing rules.

4. _____ Each body paragraph contains a topic sentence that introduces the evidence used in that paragraph.

5. _____ Body paragraphs provide six pieces of textual evidence in context which is cited correctly (MLA Format).

6. _____ Evidence is explained thoroughly, making a connection to the topic sentence and thesis statement.

7. _____ Each body paragraph concludes with a sentence tying the body paragraph back to the theme mentioned in the thesis.

8. _____ The conclusion refers back to the thesis idea of the paper and includes a concluding thought.

9. _____ Transitions are used to connect the main ideas of the paper.

10. _____ The paper follows all formal writing rules and is written in the literary present tense.

11. _____ The paper contains correct usage of spelling, grammar, and varied sentence structure.

12. _____ The paper contains high level vocabulary that is appropriate for the paper.

13. _____ The paper follows the assignment requirements: heading, typed, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font