***To Kill a Mockingbird* Essay**

Over the course of the next couple of weeks, you will be composing a literary analysis essay based on *To Kill a Mockingbird*. A literary analysis essay is one in which you try to find some insight in a piece of literature. It is not a book report or a book summary. It’s more like a persuasive essay. You say something insightful about the novel, then use quotes and analysis to prove your point. This essay will be worth 60 points for the essay, plus additional points for keeping up with the writing process. For this essay, you will be exploring a theme of the novel, and analyzing how Harper Lee presents that theme. Below are your essay options:

1. **Loss of Innocence:** Choose two or three characters that experienced a loss of innocence in the course of the novel. Which experiences contributed to their loss of innocence (their acquaintance with or compliance in evil) and what are their reactions, feelings, or observations?
2. **Moral Education:** Growing up is a learning process and it is the influence of parents or other role-models that shapes one’s values or beliefs. Choose three values that Atticus strives to pass down to his children (empathy, honesty, knowledge, patience, self-control, etc.). What does he say or do that reveals these to be his core values and how does he impart them to Jem and Scout.
3. **Social Hierarchy:** Despite the American philosophy that “all men are created equal,” historically, this statement has not rung true for everyone. Choose two or three characters (or families) and explain how their poor social standing directly affects or informs their actions, circumstances, or experiences in the novel. What factors contribute to their inferior status? Why might these factors influence what they say or do, how they treat others, or why they end up in certain situations?
4. **“Otherness”:** Explain how characters in the novel are considered “outsiders” by Maycomb society. What is Harper Lee saying about “otherness”? How does being “other” give characters in the novel an advantage or a different perspective to the happenings of Maycomb?
5. **Loss of Innocence-** With age and experience come knowledge, the realization of harsh realities, and finally wisdom and understanding. Trace the narrator’s journey from innocence to understanding in a thoughtful essay.
6. **OTHER:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Must be approved by teacher)

**Tentative Schedule:**

1. Topic Selection
2. Outlining
3. Thesis Creation
4. Finding support
5. Paragraph organization
6. Intro paragraph
7. Conclusion paragraph
8. MLA format
9. Peer Editing

**Tentative Due Date: Dec 11th**

**Points:**

**Essay 60pts**

**Writing process/preparedness 20pts**