

***To Kill a Mockingbird* Literary Analysis Paper**

This is a theme analysis paper on *To Kill a Mockingbird*. You will write a paper on the theme of compassion, sympathy, and tolerance. Call it what you want. Atticus says that people need to crawl inside other people's skin and see things from their point of view. I would like you to analyze this theme and find where characters in the book demonstrate this act of seeing from another's perspective. You will want to find at least 4 examples of when a character in the book does this. You will want to analyze what good comes from it. You will want to explain to your reader how the person sees from another's perspective? What motivated the character to see from another's perspective? What caused a character to see from another character's perspective? How was the character's behavior different afterwards?

This is like any of the literary analysis papers we have written this year. We wrote one on "The Cask of Amontillado" and one on the types of love in *Romeo and Juliet*. Refer to the notes from those papers, and you can look at your papers as examples.

Prewriting:

- Find quotes of Atticus and other characters that present the lesson of stepping inside other's skin and shoes. Write down page numbers, so you have them handy when you write the paper.
- Find parts in the book where it is very clear that a character has taken another character's perspective. Write down page numbers. You want to find 4 examples.

Introduction: follow ANT for the introduction.

- Attention-getter. The attention-getter should be general and interesting. It should draw the reader in. It should also connect thematically to the thesis.
- Necessary information:
 - Author's name
 - Title of work
 - Brief plot summary
- Thesis:
 - Your thesis should make the statement that there are several moments in the novel when the reader sees the characters taking someone else's perspective.

Body Paragraphs: You will most likely have 4, since you need to provide 4 examples.

TIQA (look at notes from earlier in the year. Recall the weeks we spent on this). Normally, you can repeat TIQA twice per paragraph. The T the second time stands for transition.

- **Topic Sentence:** this should have the topic of perspective taking and the limiting idea of whatever example you are providing in the paragraph.
- **Introduce example and quotes:**
 - Put the quote or example you are about to provide into context. You may not just put a quote down. You need to say something such as *When Scout stands on the Radley's porch, she says, "--insert quote" (32).*
- **Quote or example.** You can quote from dialogue or narration. Or you can paraphrase. Either way, you must put the page number—for example, (10).
- **Analyze the quote or example.** After you have provided the example or quote, you must spend a few sentences explaining how the example or quote supports the topic sentence, which probably says that the character you are talking about has experience perspective taking. Then you need to explain what the character has learned. Provide examples that support that the character is better off. Or that good came from perspective taking.

Conclusion:

- Restate your thesis. RESTATE, not rewrite. Say your thesis again but differently.
- Move into a brief general discussion of the theme of perspective taking and its importance to our lives in general. How might the world be different if certain real people were to experience what some of these characters have experienced. Use specific examples from real life.
- Clincher—Round off—your last impression to the reader should relate back to the attention-getter.

Writing TIPS:

- Do not use second person (YOU, Your.) This includes imperative sentences with implied you as the subject.
- Proofread for spelling, commas, comma splices, run-ons, and so on.
- Make sure that all sentences flow into each other (transition). Remember our discussion of the beginning of a sentence having something old from the previous sentence, and the second part of a sentence having something new to progress the idea. It can't always be done, but you should try as often as possible.
- Make sure you use page numbers.
- Absolutely do not use the first person (I, me, my). Do not use "I think," "In my opinion," and so on.
- DO NOT. Let me repeat, DO NOT begin body paragraphs with such words and phrases as "first," "second," "third," "to begin," "next." These are lame ways to transition. You may want to use, not overuse, "Another example of . . . is . . ."
- Along with the above, DO NOT start your conclusion paragraph with "In conclusion" or "To summarize" or any other phrase that has been overused. Just write the conclusion. I will know you are concluding if you have transitioned well.
- Paper must be typed
- 12 pt. Font Times New Roman should be used.
- 1 inch margins.
- Heading should be on top left of the first page only.
- Use your Cntrl-F worksheet and your additional lists to proofread your paper.