

To Kill a Mockingbird

8th Grade Newspaper Project



You will be working in groups of four to create, assemble and publish a newspaper related to your reading of Harper Lee's novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Each person in your group will be responsible for the content of one page of your newspaper including advertisements and photographs. All members will work together to create an original, creative, professional-looking publication. All parts of your newspaper should relate to the time period of the novel (Summer 1933 – Fall 1935).

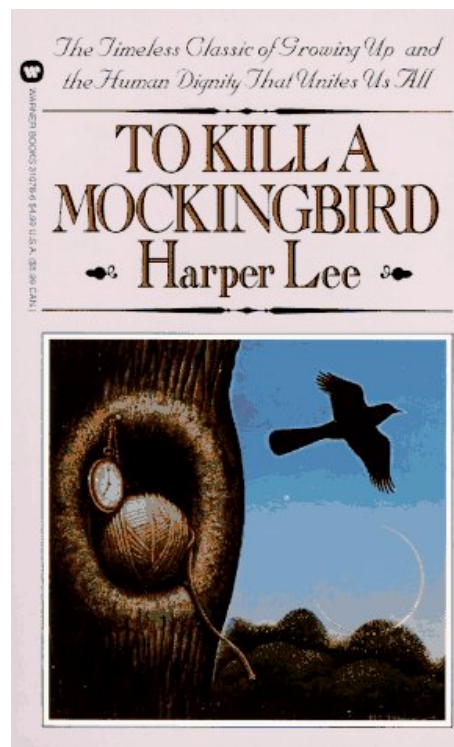
Your paper should or may contain the following:

- ✓ **Front Page:** The original name of your paper on a masthead, at least one major national story, at one major story relating to the events in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, appropriate photographs and graphics, a legend for the interior of the paper.
 - ✓ **Newsworthy Events:** Any articles relating to events that occurred in the novel. Be sure to include graphics where possible.
 - ✓ **Important Articles:** Your paper must contain the following articles: Tom Robinson Case, Jim Crow Laws, and Scottsboro Boys Trial.
 - ✓ **Arts and Entertainment Page:** Any articles relating to movies, fashion, and music of the time period and anything else related to entertainment in the 1930s or from the novel (hair styles, etc.) appropriate advertisements and photographs.
 - ✓ **Obituaries:** A list of everyone who died at any time in the novel, as well as, a description of how they died, what family members they left behind, and a little information about what they did in the community.
 - ✓ **Classifieds:** A list of things for sale, announcements, events coming up, etc. Everything that you put in the classified section should relate to someone, something, or some place in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The more items you can think of to put in the Classifieds, the better.
 - ✓ **Editorials/Staff Credits:** Letters of personal opinion to the editor on topics relevant to the 1930s or events that take place in the novel, advertisements. A list of all of the people who worked on your paper and what their jobs were. It should be a column with names on the left and jobs on the right under the word "Staff". You should look at a real newspaper for ideas on how to do this.
- You will be using Microsoft Publisher (Microsoft Word works too) to create your newspaper.
 - Detailed instructions are on the reverse side.
 - Don't forget details! The more your newspaper looks and reads like an actual paper, the higher your grade will be.
 - Your paper should be comprised of 75% content (articles, historical facts, etc.) and 25% advertisement, cartoons, etc. So, no more than ½ of a page should be dedicated to advertisements, etc.

Working in Microsoft Publisher:

1. Open the program (green icon with a “P”).
2. Click “Publications for Print”
3. Scroll down and select “Newsletter”
4. Decide as a group which template you will use so that the pages will match when you assemble the final product.
5. After you select your template click it. Note the numbered boxes as the bottom of the page. These represent how many pages the template contains. The Front Page writer should use #1, Editorials/Staff Credits should the last box, and all others should use on the interior boxes (2 or 3).
6. To change text that appears in template just click on it and type in your replacement text.
7. To insert pictures:
 - a. Go to google.com, click on the “images” tab.
 - b. Type in search words for what you are looking for. When you find something you like right click on it. Select “copy” from the menu then go back to your Publisher document. Right click again and select “paste.”

When you are ready to print your page, make sure you have only selected your single page (page 3-3 in the print menu box, for example) or you will print all of the other blank pages and waste unnecessary paper.



To Kill a Mockingbird Newspaper Project (Project: 20 points)

Student Name: _____ **Date:** _____

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Layout and Neatness	Newspaper layout is neat, organized, easy to read, and creative. Appropriate graphics are included.	Newspaper layout is neat, organized, and easy to read. Some graphics are included.	Newspaper layout is somewhat disorganized and difficult to read. Few graphics are included.	Newspaper layout is disorganized and difficult to read. Little or no graphics are included.
Grammar and Spelling	Little or no(0 – 3) grammar and spelling mistakes.	Few (4 – 7) grammar and spelling mistakes.	Many (8 – 11) grammar and spelling mistakes.	Abundance of grammar and spelling mistakes (12+); obvious lack of proofreading.
Quality of Articles and Newspaper Content	Article topics are interesting, informative, and well researched. Time period is accurately depicted.	Article topics are moderately interesting and informative. Time period is depicted.	Article topics are somewhat interesting and informative. Time period is barely depicted or has historical inaccuracies.	Article topics reveal lack of research or knowledge of historical time period.
Diversity of Newspaper	Newspaper is an excellent compilation of articles, stories, editorials, graphics, etc. The work submitted by group members is diverse and varied.	Newspaper is a good compilation of articles, stories, editorials, graphics, etc. The work submitted by group members is somewhat diverse and varied.	Newspaper is a fair compilation of articles, stories, editorials, graphics, etc. Articles and stories are similar to one another.	Newspaper is a poor compilation of articles, stories, editorials, graphics, etc. Articles and stories are too similar to one another.
Research and Works Cited	Newspaper reveals thorough research, and many aspects of the time period are accurately depicted. Works Cited page is turned in and completed in proper format.	Newspaper reveals adequate research, and some aspects of the time period are well depicted. Works Cited page is turned in and in proper format.	Newspaper reveals lack of adequate research, and the time period is only somewhat depicted. Works Cited page is incorrectly formatted or not turned in.	Newspaper reveals lack of research or comprehension of the historical elements. Time period is not depicted. Works Cited page is incorrectly formatted or not turned in.