



## Honors English 1

### Summer Reading Assignment

1. Read the following novel: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
2. Answer the "Short Answer Questions" at the bottom of this page. Each response must be one page in length and hand-written; each response should also be thoughtful, thorough, and clearly address the prompt. Also, each response **must** include textual evidence (please see accompanying handout for more information on textual evidence).

\*\*\*These assignments should be **completed and ready to turn in** on the first day of class. Be prepared to take a test and complete an in-class writing assignment regarding the novel by the end of the first week of class. Any summer reading assignments turned in *after* the first day of class will receive a significant point deduction.\*\*\*

### Short Answer Questions

1. **Point of View.** All of *To Kill a Mockingbird* is told from Scout's point of view. Explain how this shapes the reader's experience. How does the author's choice of narrator influence the reader's understanding of the events in the novel? What are the limits of this, and what are the advantages?
2. **Theme.** Identify a theme of the novel and back up your analysis with evidence from the text.
3. **Character analysis.** Choose one character from the novel and analyze how the events in the novel shaped and changed them over the course of the story.

Any questions? We are glad to help:

You can reach Kim Hesson at [kim.hesson@sumnerschools.org](mailto:kim.hesson@sumnerschools.org)  
and Christian Powell at [christian.powell@sumnerschools.org](mailto:christian.powell@sumnerschools.org)

# Citing Evidence

One of the most important standards we will address this year concerns citing textual evidence. If you've done this before, great! If not, don't worry: it's an easy skill to master.

## What is citing evidence?

Citing evidence refers to using another's work within your own writing while giving the original author credit. Not only does this help you avoid plagiarism, but it strengthens your writing by bringing in information or evidence from an outside source. Think about it: isn't it easier to prove something or convince someone when you have evidence that backs up what you're saying? Of course it is!

## How do I cite evidence?

For now, let's begin by working the evidence into your writing; we'll deal with the finer points as the semester moves on. Here are a couple tips to help make sure that you are citing evidence in the most effective way:

1. Choose evidence from the text that makes sense. If you don't know why you should use it, then don't use it.
2. Put the evidence you are citing in "quotation marks." This lets the reader know that you are using textual evidence.
3. Work the evidence into a sentence of your own. Evidence should never just be dropped into an essay or a paragraph; instead, insert the evidence into the middle or end of your own sentence.
4. In the sentences after your citation, explain to the reader **why** you chose that piece of evidence. Leave no doubt in their mind as to the reason that you used it.

Let's put those three together, so you can see what it looks like. Imagine you've been given a prompt that asks you to inform the reader about one of Martin Luther King's dreams for his children based on his "I Have a Dream" speech. A properly cited piece of evidence would look like this:

Martin Luther King specifically mentions dreams he holds for his children in his "I Have a Dream" speech. He says he hopes his children "will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." King explains that he dreams of an America where his children will not be discriminated against, labelled, or judged simply because they are African American. Instead, he hopes that they will be judged by the type of person they are.

See? It's easy! The evidence made sense in relation to the prompt, it's in quotation marks, it's worked into a sentence of the writer's own, and the writer explained what the evidence meant. You can do this!