**Example of an Editorial**

Letter to the Editor:

After my children asked about recent developments in Europe, I was prompted to write this letter. As the children were trying to understand Adolf Hitler and his treatment of the Jews, they questioned how it would be possible to take someone’s freedom or property, or even register them to track and segregate them. “How could that be legal? How could a government allow that to happen? It’s not right to persecute anybody, is it?” my daughter asked.

Right now laws are being passed in Germany that restrict which citizens can marry each other, propaganda separates groups from each other, limiting contact and trust between them, language is used to make one group foreign to the other, names or symbols are used to make one group less powerful than another, sometimes even equating the lower group with animals, insects, or disease, and by doing so, denying their humanity.

Even though I do not understand why Hitler is creating and enforcing these policies, I do know that citizens who value freedom, and expect to be protected by the law to keep it for themselves, must also work to protect it for their fellow man. It does not matter whether he is of the same religion, class, or ethnic group. Historical precedent shows us that when those in power start stripping citizens of property or separating them from the larger population, greater restrictions and loss of freedom follow, both for the persecuted and the persecutor. I pray that I am wrong.

As we watch the events unfold in Europe, and as we teach our children how to protect all of our freedoms, let’s recommit ourselves to the noble ideals of our nation. As many of you recently heard me say, “Thomas Jefferson once said that all men are created equal,” and he used this idea to argue that a just government recognizes this equality by equal protection under the law. When America lives up to its ideals, it is unmatched in honor, dignity, virtue.

Atticus Finch

**Online Resources for How to Write a Strong Editorial:**

<http://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Notable-Editorial>

<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/02/06/student-contest-write-an-editorial-on-an-issue-that-matters-to-you/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=0> (This one has an accompanying video.)

Like the one above that I wrote using Atticus’s voice, these may be from a particular character. Think of the interesting people who may have something to say about the events in the novel. I chose a discussion that Scout has with Atticus to springboard this editorial, but Miss Maudie, Uncle Jack, Mr. Underwood, Mrs. Dubose, even Jem, Scout, or Dill might have funny, stern, or appreciative things to say to their community. Have fun!