**Be Worthy of the Legacy That Comes Before You**

***To Kill a Mockingbird:* 7th Grade Media Project**

**Writing Prompt:**

**Option 1:** What would media look like in Maycomb County, 1935? After reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* and researching newspaper layouts; cultural and historical contexts such as Jim Crow Laws, the Scottsboro Boys Trial, and the Great Depression; create a newspaper which represents the news of the day.

* For informational articles, define the terms or concepts and explain key details, answering the journalist’s questions of who, what, when, where, why, and how. Support your article with evidence from your research as well as details from the novel.

Be careful not to show bias in these articles.

* For editorial articles, adopt a stance in which you argue and evaluate the elements of the trial and/or issues of the day. Support your position with evidence from your research as well as with details from the novel.
* Use primary sources from the National Archive only.
* Keep a record of the sources you use on a Works Cited page.

**Instructions:**

In groups of three-four, 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 to contribute to each page in a meaningful way, as well as be in charge of editing one page of the 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). All sources should be found through the National Archive. Use primary documents only.

Your newspaper will contain the following. (Use the organization we set in class):

**Front Page**: The original name of your paper on a masthead, at least one major national story, at least 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. Refer to the list that we generated on the board, although do not feel limited to that list. Be sure to include graphics where possible.

**Important Articles/ Big Bucket Ideas to Research**: Your paper must contain four of the following articles: the Tom Robinson Case (necessary), Jim Crow Laws, the Great Depression, the rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party, the Scottsboro Boys Trial, the Great Migration, New Deal Exclusions, Plessy v. Ferguson, Harlem Renaissance and/or Eleanor Roosevelt’s trip to the south/ involvement in working to advance rights for black Americans. These ideas may come into the newspaper in more than one way. They may be a featured article, they may be referred to on the editorial page, etc. but make sure that you know what these are and can describe them to others.

**Arts and Entertainment Page**: Any articles relating to literature, 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. Community announcements about cultural occasions are also welcomed here. The Harlem Renaissance, recipes, poems, etc. could work on this page.

**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. Look at real obituaries and model on those standard forms.

**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. These can fit around the other articles in your paper.

**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 also belong here. It should be a column with names on the left and jobs on the right under the word “Staff”.

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 content (articles, historical facts, etc.). A small percentage may include advertisement, political cartoons, etc. Please no horoscopes or non-cartoons.

Each group member will:

* Be the editor of one page, selecting layout, incorporating the articles from the group, and proofreading all articles for the page.
* Write or draw four articles or pictures, one for each page
* Be responsible for researching at least one Important Big Bucket Idea.
* Include details from the book to make the paper realistic and demonstrate connections to the text.
* Adopt the role of journalist on the informational pages, and editor (using argument) on the editorial page.

**Option 2 (Designated Groups):** Imagine how the novel fits into the time it was published.

**Writing Prompt**

What would the newspaper look like in Maycomb County, 1960? After reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* and researching newspaper layouts; cultural and historical contexts such as the Tom Robinson trial, segregation, the Greensboro Sit Ins, the first televised presidential debates, television as a medium, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Harper Lee’s biography, Truman Capote (the real person that Dill was based on), Reviews of *To Kill a Mockingbird, Brown v. Board of Education*; create a newspaper which represents the news of the day.

• For informational articles, define the terms or concepts and explain key details, answering the journalist’s questions of who, what, when, where, why, and how. Support your article with evidence from your research as well as details from the novel.

Be careful not to show bias in these articles.

• For editorial articles, adopt a stance in which you argue and evaluate the elements of the trial and/or issues of the day. Support your position with evidence from your research as well as with details from the novel.

• Keep a record of the sources you use on a Works Cited page.

The time the book was published: 1960s America.

Choose at least four Big Bucket Ideas: the Tom Robinson Trial, Segregation, Greensboro Sit Ins, the first televised presidential debates, Emmett Till, the Civil Rights Act of 1957, Brown v. Board of Education, find the forgotten heroes of the civil rights movement, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Reviews of *To Kill a Mockingbird* as it was published, Harper Lee’s Biography, Truman Capote, or news of the period that relates to the themes of this book.