**Guidelines for Drafting Your Essay**

**\*\*Use these possible suggestions/guidelines for organizing your ideas.**

Body Paragraph Reminders-

* Begin with a topic sentence which previews what the body paragraph will be about (do **not** begin nor end a paragraph with a quote).
* As you transition into your textual evidence, provide brief background/explanation to introduce your piece of evidence/to help you set the scene for your reader.
* Fluently lead into your piece of text evidence and cite it properly 🡪 “ ” (17).
* Explain each piece of evidence and what it means/how it ties your thesis statement. (Explain the hidden arrow).
* Conclude each body paragraph with a summative statement which pulls together your ideas.

\*\*You could organize your ideas by using the suggestions below.

**Question #1**

(Body Paragraph 1) 🡪Discuss/analyze misunderstandings/judgements about the character.

(Body Paragraph 2)🡪Discuss/analyze the truth/their innocence.

(Body Paragraph 3 or Weave in throughout) 🡪Discuss/analyze the impact/harm inflicted upon the

mockingbird? Why is the character a mockingbird?

**Question #3-**

(Body Paragraph 1) 🡪Discuss/analyze the lack of understanding toward 1 character & the reasons behind it. What it is about being young that contributes to his/her lack of understanding?

(Body Paragraph 2)🡪Discuss/analyze the new understanding/growth toward character & reasons behind it.

What is it about being mature/grown up that contributes to his/her new understanding?

(You could repeat the process for a lack of understanding about another character.)

**Question #4-**

(Body Paragraph 1) 🡪Discuss/analyze the initial ideas about courage and the reasons behind these ideas.

(Body Paragraph 2)🡪Discuss/analyze the new ideas about courage and the reasons behind these ideas.

What contributed toward these new understandings? What wisdom was gained?

**Question #5-**

(Body Paragraph 1) 🡪Discuss/analyze Atticus’s parenting skills.

(Body Paragraph 2)🡪Discuss/analyze the lessons Atticus imparts/teaches.

(Body Paragraph 3)🡪Influence- discuss/analyze proof that Scout and/or Jem have applied these lessons.

(You could combine body paragraph 1 and body paragraph 2.)

**Questions #2 and #6- See Me ☺**

Example🡪Prejudice

(Body Paragraph 1)🡪Discuss/analyze a type of prejudice.

(Body Paragraph 2)🡪Discuss/analyze example(s) of this type of prejudice.

(Body Paragraph 3) 🡪Discuss/analyze its impact.

(You could combine all three of these into one paragraph and then repeat the pattern above for 2nd type of prejudice and/or 2nd character.)

Example🡪Courage

(Body Paragraph 1)🡪Discuss/analyze a type of courage.

(Body Paragraph 2)🡪Discuss/analyze example(s) of this type of courage.

(Body Paragraph 3) 🡪Discuss/analyze its impact/effect.

(You could combine all three of these into one paragraph and then repeat the pattern above for 2nd type of courage and/or 2nd character.)

**Drafting a Conclusion:**

In a few concluding sentences wrap up discussion about the author’s message regarding your main idea. Remember **DO NOT** include a quote or introduce any new ideas in your conclusion.

You could begin with something like

Harper Lee’s book examines the consequences of snap judgments, rumors, and gossip. By avoiding these pitfalls, one can understand others and remain free from prejudice. Without misunderstandings, people would be able to see each other clearly.

Courage is defined as the ability to do something frightening. Through Atticus’s words and actions, readers discover that courage is much more than that. True courage is facing one’s problems without hiding behind fears. It is fighting for what is right and just. It is the ability to persevere, despite the obstacles in one’s way. In sum, Atticus exemplifies true courage and the strength that is required to remain strong in the face of adversity.

Without Atticus’s fair and just treatment toward others, the town would drown in a sea of injustice. Atticus is the life preserver, keeping the town’s head above water; thereby, teaching readers that everyone deserves equal rights and opportunities.