

summer READING ASSIGNMENT

Dear Rising 9th Grader,

I hope you have a wonderful summer! To assess your summer reading of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, you will be completing a small research assignment on the novel. This American classic explores trials of growing up, prejudice, and courage. The innocence of 8-year-old tomboy Scout Finch fades as she encounters racism and ignorance in the Depression-torn South. Please note that this novel contains language that reflects the racially divided climate during the 1930s. As we've seen throughout history, these themes of prejudice and injustice have remained in our world. Thus, I would like you to make connections between the novel and what is happening in modern day society. You have free reign over how to create this project as long as you **answer the driving question** and support your answer with both **evidence from the novel** and **valid outside research**. **Be creative** and choose a topic that interests you! The following assignment MUST BE completed prior to the beginning of 10th grade. This assignment is due in class on **Monday, August 27** AND will count for a grade.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Courtney Ramos

High School English Language Arts Teacher

If you have any questions, please email me at courtney.ramos@plymouthchristian.org

Driving Question:

How is the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* still relevant today?

Consider the following topics:

- Prejudice
- Racism
- Equality
- Fairness of America's legal system
- Injustice
- Racial profiling
- Education system
- Parenting
- Social hierarchy
- Social status
- Poverty
- Women's rights
- Gender stereotypes
- Growing up
- Childhood innocence

Examples of projects you could do:

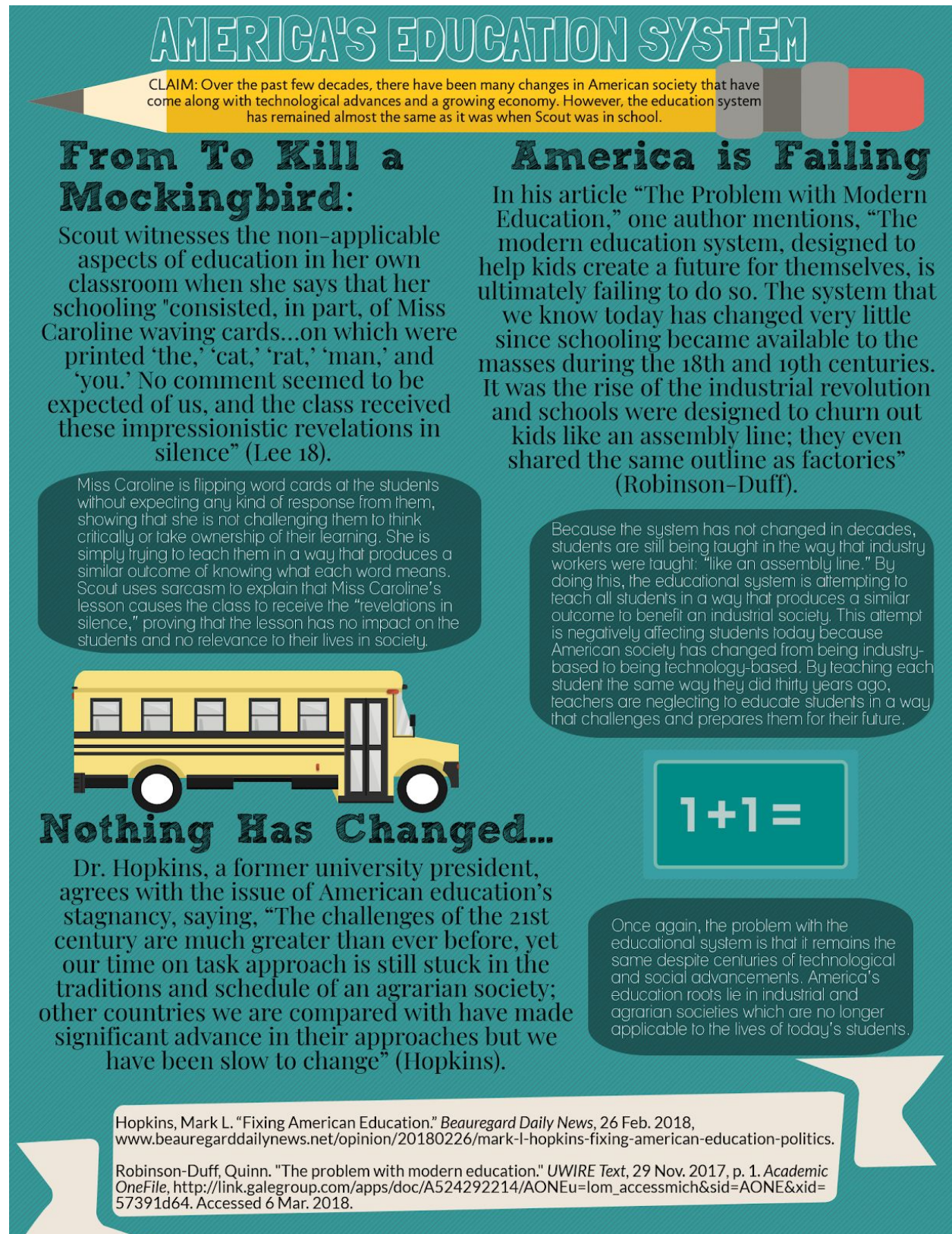
- Posterboard
- Infographic (piktochart.com is a great tool for this, and you can create an account for free)
- Slideshow
- Mobile (decorated clothes hanger with string and text/pictures/objects attached)
- Video
- Essay
- Anything else you can think of that follows the guidelines!

Step-by-Step Instructions:

1. Read *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee with the guiding question in mind!
2. Choose a topic and form a **clear and precise claim** that answers the driving question.
3. Look for at least **3 quotes** from the novel that support this claim. Don't forget to cite your quotations by surrounding with quotation marks and ending with the author's last name and the page number in parentheses. (Remember: period goes AFTER in-text citation!)
 - a. Example: "Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing" (Lee 18).
4. Conduct research online and collect at least **3 facts/data/quotes/statistics** to support that the topic you chose is still relevant today. [News.google.com](https://news.google.com) and scholar.google.com are great resources for this! Outside research must ALWAYS be **recent** (preferably since 2010) and **reliable** (no ".org" websites, look for news articles and scholarly journals).
5. Write **MLA citations** for the articles you chose to use research from and include these citations on your project (just like you would for a Works Cited page).
 - a. Note: failure to cite sources, and/or using another person's words as your own, will result in a failing grade, as this is plagiarism.
 - b. Feel free to use EasyBib.com or another citation generator to help you write the proper MLA citation.
6. **Organize your information** and confirm that your outside research supports your novel quotes and backs up your claim.
7. **Analyze your quotes and research** with insightful commentary that connects to the driving question.
8. Decide how you want to present this information and **creatively display** your claim, quotes, research, and analysis. An example is given on the following page.
9. **Proofread and edit** before finalizing your project.
10. **Present** your final project to the class (all projects will be set around the room and viewed by classmates in a "gallery walk" style).
11. Your work will be graded using the attached **rubric**.
12. When finished with your project, please **complete the attached reflection** sheet, explaining your thoughts about the novel!

If you are overwhelmed by the step-by-step directions, here is a simple summary of the summer reading assignment: find 3 quotes from the novel, find 3 facts or statistics from our world today, connect the quotes to the facts/stats in your own words showing how the novel is relevant to today's society, and present in a creative way. (This is meant to be a fun way to encourage students to connect their reading to what's going on around them instead of simply completing a book report!)

PROJECT EXAMPLE: This was done using Piktochart.com. It is a simplified version of your project. This one has 1 novel quote and 2 outside research quotes/facts/stats. Yours must have 3 each!



TO KILL a MOCKINGBIRD PROJECT RUBRIC

Name: _____ Date: _____

		Exceeds Standard	Meets Standard	Approaches Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
Claim	I answered the driving question with a clear and precise claim.	7	5	3	1
Quotes and Analysis	I found at least 3 quotes from the book that support the prediction. I surrounded the quotes with quotation marks and put an accurate page number after each one.	7	5	3	1
Research	I supported my claim with at least 3 recent and valid statistics or facts from today's world. I cited these with proper MLA citations.	7	5	3	1
Analysis	I insightfully analyzed and expanded upon what my quotes and research revealed about the prediction.	7	5	3	1
Appearance	I have created a project that is appealing to the eye. It is colorful and creative.	7	5	3	1
Proofreading and Editing	My final project is free from grammar, spelling, capitalization and punctuation errors.	7	5	3	1
Effort and Neatness	I have followed the directions and used my best effort to complete this project. There are no scratch-outs or scribbles anywhere on the project. Writing is neat and legible.	7	5	3	1
Comments				Total	

summer READING REFLECTION

1. I think *To Kill a Mockingbird* is _____ because
_____.
2. The novel made me _____ because
_____.
3. If it was real life and I was in the novel, I would _____
because _____.
4. The ending made me feel _____ because
_____.
5. Something I don't understand is _____ because
_____.
6. I liked _____ the most because
_____.
7. I didn't like _____ because
_____.
8. In my mind, the ending looked like this (illustrate below):
9. I wish the author had _____ because
_____.
10. I would rate this novel a _____ out of 10 (10 = best) because
_____.