***To Kill a Mockingbird*** Introductory Notes

**Introduction**

You are about to read the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The story is set in the sleepy

town of Maycomb, Alabama. Atticus Finch is asked to defend a black man charged with

the rape of a white woman. Through the young eyes of his children, Scout and Jem

Finch, Harper Lee explores the irrationality of adult attitudes toward race and class in the

Deep South of the 1930's. The consciousness of a town steeped in prejudice, violence

and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina and quiet heroism of one man's struggle for

justice. To best understand the lessons of the novel, you must understand the author, the

times and the place in which the story is set.

**Task**

Your task for this web quest is to research an assigned topic and create a Power Point

presentation to serve as an introduction for the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Your

presentations will vary in topics from what life was like during the 1930's in the South, to

who is Harper Lee, to The Great Depression and events surrounding the novel To Kill a

Mockingbird, by Harper Lee. You will research different websites and record information

that your group deems interesting and relevant. Your presentation will be based on the

information your group gathered. By the end of your presentation your audience should

have a good feel for the 1930's and understand the novel within its historical context.

Remember your presentation should give your classmates insight into why some of the

events in the novel occurred.

**PowerPoint Presentation**

Your Power Point Presentation should be a summary of what you find out about the

topics below. Be creative include pictures, sound or anything you can to make your

presentation interesting.

**The Process**

You will be divided into groups of three. Each group will be assigned a topic. Use the

websites listed in the resources section to fully research your group’s topic. As a group,

determine what information is relevant or interesting to you. The group will then make a

ten slide presentation with the information gathered.

**Requirements**

1. Introductory slide

2. Minimum of 8 informational slides

3. Works Cited slide

4. Minimum of 5 pictures

5. Sound (not sound effects, but sound clips that are relevant to the presentation)

6. No distracting images or techniques

7. Free of spelling and grammatical errors

8. Consistent font and size

9. One background

10. No more than 50 words per slide. You must know your information!

11. Each group member must have notecards

12. One slide at the end of the presentation that includes 1 key fact for the final test from each member of the group related to your topic.

13. Presentation must be shared with Mr. Burklund [aburklund@isd726.org](mailto:aburklund@isd726.org)

**Possible Resources**

Use the following websites to help you make your Power Point presentation.

Biographical information about Harper Lee

http://mockingbird.chebucto.org/bio.html#Nelle

Growing up in the South during 1930's

http://www.nhmccd.cc.tx.us/contracts/lrc/kc/decade30.html

Public Education in the 1930's.

http://library.advanced.org/12111/girl.html

Interview of three women who grew up in the South during the 1930's.

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/fsowhome.html

American Memory is an archive of thousands of black & white and color photos.

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/wpaintro/wpahome.html

American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers Project 1936-1940

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/98/mock/rhletter.html

To Kill a Mockingbird: One man's historical perspective

http://docsouth.unc.edu/index.html

First-person narratives of the American South

**The Jim Crow South**

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/amex/presidents/nf/featured/truman/civilrights.html

An historian speaks on the subject of black voters in the South during the 1930's

http://www.jimcrowhistory.org

Information on the history of Jim Crow Laws

http://www.ferris.edu/news/jimcrow/who.htm

History of the name Jim Crow

http://www.nps.gov/malu/documents/jim\_crow\_laws.htm

Examples of Jim Crow laws

**The Scottsborough Trilals**

http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/FTrials/scottsboro/scottsb.htm

Information on the Scottsboro Boys trial 1931-1937

http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/FTrials/scottsboro/scottsb.htm

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/scottsboro/peopleevents/index.html

Information on the people and events

**The Effects of the Great Depression**

http://ac.acusd.edu/History/classes/civ18/causes-depression.html

This site lists causes of the Great Depression.

http://sac.uky.edu/~msunde00/hon202/p4/nyt.html

This site discusses Black Tuesday, the day the stock market crashed.

http://www.hc.sd.k12.ca.us/crocker/97/SHARE/greatdep.html

This site provides information on the social conditions brought about by the Great

Depression.

http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-15481\_19268\_20778-52530--,00.html

Then & Now. Compares costs for goods and services.

**Topics**

1. Harper Lee
2. Herbert Hoover
3. Women in the South
4. Growing up in the Great Depression (kids)
5. Lynching in the South
6. Jim Crow Laws
7. Scottsboro Trials
8. Black Tuesday
9. New Deal
10. 1930’s Overview—typical day/prices/activities/games
11. What was the Great Depression?
12. Franklin Delano Roosevelt