

## ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** **Be a Reporter Project**

**Task:** Students will form groups to create a newspaper reporting on the events of Maycomb. Students will be assigned one of two newspapers: *The Maycomb Tribune*, the local newspaper read by the white populace, or the local newspaper created and read by the African-American populace, title is not provided as it did not exist in the novel.

**Requirements:** Articles should include a diverse compilation of article types: news, society (births, deaths, weddings), comics, weather, editorials-“Man of the Year,” and pictures. Some of the articles must be devoted to the Tom Robinson case and current events according to the setting.

### **Roles of group members:**

**Editor-in-Chief** – The Editor-in-Chief’s job is to compile a list of and set deadlines for stories, articles, and drawings. He or she will decide, with the help of the group, what goes in the paper and what should be left out. She will make sure her writers are on task and will oversee the process of sending work through the Copy Editor to the Layout Editor. This person must be able to work well with his or her “staff”!

**Layout Editor** – This student will collect all of the group’s work via email and keep it in a safe, organized folder. She will design the layout of the newspaper, find photos/artwork or collect them from group members, place and arrange the group’s work, and maintain the file to be submitted. Along with being responsible enough to hold on to the file, this person must have an eye for design!

**Copy Editor** – The Copy Editor will proofread everyone’s work before it is submitted to the Layout Editor. It is his or her responsibility to make sure every piece of work has been proofread, is historically accurate, and is ready for press! This person must have a knack for spelling and grammar, the ability to constructively criticize his or her classmates, and a desire to make the final copy as perfect as it can be!

\*\*All three group members will help in the creation of the final project either through the use of Microsoft Publisher, alternate software, or a more creative cut and paste method. Remember the final project must be neat regardless of the creative mode!

### **Process:**

1. Form groups of three or four.
2. Assign roles to every student and review responsibilities.
3. Brainstorm stories, articles, and ideas for your newspaper.
4. Decide amongst your group who will write or draw each piece; the Editor-in-Chief leads this discussion. Each student must submit 3-5 pieces of work or at least one page.
5. Write your articles and work on your contributions to the newspaper.
6. Submit work to Research Editor, Copy Editor, Layout Editor, and Editor-in-Chief.
7. Make necessary changes as recommended by group members.
8. Submit final work to Layout Editor.

**Evaluation:**

CATEGORY	20	15	10	5
Layout and Neatness	Newspaper layout is neat, organized, easy to read, and creative. Appropriate graphics are included.	Newspaper layout is neat, organized, and easy to read. Some graphics are included.	Newspaper layout is somewhat disorganized and difficult to read. Few graphics are included.	Newspaper layout is disorganized and difficult to read. Little or no graphics are included.
Grammar and Spelling	Little or no grammar and spelling mistakes.	Few grammar and spelling mistakes.	Many grammar and spelling mistakes.	Abundance of grammar and spelling mistakes; obvious lack of proofreading.
Quality of Articles and Newspaper Content	Article topics are interesting, informative, and well-researched. Time period is accurately depicted.	Article topics are moderately interesting and informative. Time period is depicted.	Article topics are somewhat interesting and informative. Time period is barely depicted or has historical inaccuracies.	Article topics reveal lack of research or knowledge of historical time period.
Diversity of Newspaper	Newspaper is an excellent compilation of articles, stories, editorials, graphics, etc. The work submitted by group members is diverse and varied.	Newspaper is a good compilation of articles, stories, editorials, graphics, etc. The work submitted by group members is somewhat diverse and varied.	Newspaper is a fair compilation of articles, stories, editorials, graphics, etc. Articles and stories are similar to one another.	Newspaper is a poor compilation of articles, stories, editorials, graphics, etc. Articles and stories are too similar to one another.
Creativity	Newspaper is a superb example of creativity and neatness. It appears authentic.	Newspaper is a good example of creativity and neatness. It is almost authentic.	Newspaper is a fair example of creativity and neatness. It appears student made.	Newspaper is a poor example of creativity and neatness. It reveals lack of effort.

**Total points \_\_\_\_\_/100**