Composition Prompt: How do book like *To Kill a Mockingbird* help people understand the communities they live in, grow morally and ethically, and cause positive change in these communities.

\*The prompt calls for you to answer three particular questions:

 1. How do books like TKAM help people understand their communities?

 2. How do books like TKAM help people to grow morally and ethically?

 3. How do books like TKAM cause positive change in communities?

Make sure your thesis statement contains these three points, and that these three points become the topics of your body paragraphs.

Body Paragraphs (paragraphs 2, 3, and 4) should be in the 1-2-3-1 format. Remember, only use one quote per paragraph—that should be enough if it is a meaningful one.

Use Academic/Formal Tone:

 -No “I” “You” “us” “we” “our” etc.

 -No contractions or slang

 -Use present tense when discussing events from the novel

 -Avoid hedge words: “maybe” “probably” etc.

 -Double Space per MLA formatting

 -Body Paragraphs in 1-2-3-1 format

 -Book title are underlined or *italicized*—it’s up to you.

 -Don’t forget the author and title in the first paragraph

We’ve broken down, gone over, and practiced all the steps for the essay: using the 1-2-3-1 format to cite texts according to MLA formatting; thesis statements; techniques for starting off an essay; techniques and requirements for your concluding paragraphs; and how to cite the texts you used to prove your opinion is based on evidence (Work Cited page). Now, write the best essay of your life.

Plagiarism: unfortunately, every year students turn in plagiarized essays to me. They are easy to spot, because I’ve been reading your writing all year. Don’t do it. This will result in you being written up to your Dean, an In-School Suspension, and a blemish on your permanent record which will preclude you getting into the National Honors Society. Trying to pass off someone else’s work as your own stating that you feel inadequate about yourself: you’d rather have someone believe in a fraudulent you, rather than the real you. Do your best work, whatever that may be, and be proud of your efforts. It’s all anyone can ask of you.