

Thesis:

Author Harper Lee uses her novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* to engage the reader in thinking about social evils such as the discrepancies between social classes, sexism, and racism.

Model Body Paragraph:

One of the main issues explored in the novel is the idea of social classes as defining the value of a person. In the 1960s when Lee was writing, there were some fairly rigid middle class social structures, which many young people questioned as they felt that their parents' values weren't inclusive enough. In the novel, the conversation between Aunt Alexandra and Scout when Scout asks to invite Walter Cunningham, the son of a poor white farmer, to her house highlights social class discrepancies. Scout asks her aunt why she can't play with the him. After all, Walter had already been at the Finch house when Jem invited him over for lunch. Alexandra says, "I'll tell you why....Because- he- is- trash, that's why you can't play with him. I'll not have you around him, picking up his habits and learning Lord-knows-what. You're enough of a problem to your father as it is" (115). At this point, Jem has to drag Scout away sobbing in fury. Scout is devastated that Aunt Alexandra groups Walter into the same category as the Ewells, who are pretty morally awful people. Scout knows that the Cunninghams are decent people, even if they are poor. Lee is warning her 1960s audience and today's audience about the dangers of labeling people according to social class. Class distinctions are still an issue that needs to be overcome. Although some progress has been made since the 1960s, in most cases the poor of society are looked down upon just as they were decades ago.

Commented [LM1]: Topic sentence that introduces the blue argument.

Commented [LM2]: WHERE IS THE ISSUE RAISED IN THE TIME PERIOD THAT THE NOVEL WAS WRITTEN?

Commented [LM3]: WHERE IS THE ISSUE RAISED IN THE NOVEL?

Introduce the quote/evidence by giving the circumstances in which it was said.

Commented [LM4]: Introduce the quotation/evidence with who said it.

Commented [LM5]: Provide the quotation/evidence.

Commented [LM6]: Provide the page number on which the quotation/evidence may be found.

Commented [LM7]: Discuss the quotation/evidence you just gave.

Commented [LM8]: WHERE IS THE ISSUE RAISED IN TODAY'S SOCIETY?