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**Definition Essay Applied to *To Kill a Mockingbird* (100 Points)**

Sometimes terms are used without real attention to their deeper or intended meaning in context. Often, in academic writing and professional writing, words are used that require further explanation, or assumptions are made that the readers always know how to interpret the words. Many words and phrases are open to multiple interpretations and therefore require further explanation.

Now that you have read *To Kill a Mockingbird*, your job is to explore either one of the novel’s themes (**compassion / forgiveness**, **prejudice**, **gender**, **justice**, **education**, **equality, pride, community, family**) or one of the ‘isms that we discussed (**racism**, **classism**, **sexism**, **ageism**). Your task is to choose one of the words above and write a multiple paragraph essay in which you explore how the word is defined in the context of the novel.

For your introduction, be sure to define the word both denotatively and connotatively. Use this as a segue into the connotative definition that you feel is seen in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Keep in mind that the definition, especially in the novel, can either be *positive* or *negative.* Once you have decided on a definition, provide at least (3) specific examples from the novel with quotes that support your stance. Your essay will need a ***closed thesis*** to help guide the essay.

**Introduction:**

* How is the term defined *denotatively*?
* How would you define the term (connotatively)?
* How is the term seen in society? Past, present, future?
* How is the term seen in *To Kill a Mockingbird*?

Closed thesis:

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**Paragraph #1 (First example from novel):**

**Point:**

**Evidence:** You will need a direct quote from the novel. Please be sure to cite appropriately.

For example, (Lee 59).

**Analysis:** Explain how your evidence proves your point.

**Link:** Be sure to link back to your thesis. How does this example and paragraph support your thesis?

**Paragraph #2 (2nd example from novel):**

**Point:**

**Evidence:** You will need a direct quote from the novel. Please be sure to cite appropriately.

For example, (Lee 59).

**Analysis:**

**Link:** Be sure to link back to your thesis. How does this example and paragraph support your thesis?

**Paragraph #3 (3rd example from the novel):**

**Point:**

**Evidence:** You will need a direct quote from the novel. Please be sure to cite appropriately.

For example, (Lee 59).

**Analysis:**

**Link:** Be sure to link back to your thesis. How does this example and paragraph support your thesis?