



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

## TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

### Persuasive Writing Prompt

Tom Robinson was convicted of rape in this novel. The trial leading up to his conviction is described at great length. Imagine you are Atticus Finch, Robinson's defense attorney, writing an appeal to the Appellate Court. Based on your understanding of Due Process guaranteed under the United States Constitution, write to persuade the reader that Tom Robinson did not receive a fair trial.

#### **Plan**

Before you write:

- Read the prompt carefully so you understand exactly what you are being asked to do.
- Consider topic, task, and audience.
- Think about what you want to write
- Use scratch paper to organize your thoughts. Use strategies like mapping or outlining.

#### **Write**

As you write:

- Maintain a clear and consistent position or claim.
- Include specific details; use examples and reasons to support your ideas.
- Use a variety of well-constructed, complete sentences.
- Use a logical organization with an obvious introduction, body, and conclusion.

#### **Proofread**

After you write:

- Did you support your ideas with specific details?
- Do the point of view and tone of the essay remain consistent?
- Check for capitalization, spelling, sentence structure, punctuation, and usage errors.