

To Kill a Mockingbird Multi-Genre Project

Point Total = 60 points

This project invites you to represent your knowledge and experience of *To Kill a Mockingbird* by writing in multiple, creative genres: letters, interviews, character sketches, poetry, diary entries, speeches, newspaper articles, collage, personal narratives, cartoons, recipes, personal narrative, etc (see below for larger list and descriptions of genres). The point of a multi-genre project is to represent your understanding of the novel - its characters, themes, conflicts, major events, significance in the world, etc. – in ways that are creative, fun, and meaningful to you.

There are **THREE** components to the point total of this project, all of which count as “Tests/Quizzes” in JupiterGrades.

Project Plan: 10 points

Outline the list of genres you plan to do for your project and notes on how you plan to complete each. This typed plan is the first required element and is due on Thursday, 4/18.

Presentation: 10 pts

On the day the project is due, you will present **two** of the genres you have completed for this project. Presentations must be between two and three minutes long; this time limit will be strictly enforced. When you present, you will give us an introduction to each of the two genres you’re highlighting; show, read, or paraphrase them for the class; and explain why you chose to do these two genres in your project.

Project: 30 points

You will do a minimum of 5 genres for this project (3 “big” ones and 2 “small” ones). All genres involving writing excepting those marked with an asterisk) should be typed, 1.5 spaced, and edited. Other genres (art, slideshow or video, etc.) will obviously take on different forms. Your project must be submitted as a packet, ideally secured in a folder or some kind of project protector.

You must also include: An interesting cover/title page with your name, class, and date; a table of contents page; and a ¾ - 1-page typed, 1.5 spaced “Discoveries” page that reflects on your experience of composing your genres. For this, you will explain what you think your two or three strongest or favorite genres are and why. Most importantly, you will reflect upon how composing this project affected or enhanced your experience of the novel. What have you discovered that you didn’t see or think about before?

Here is a list of possible genres you may choose from. You are welcome to come up with a genre idea that is not here, but you will need to consult with me first to decide which category it would go under.

“Big” Genres (approx. 1 ¾ - 2 pages each) - MUST CHOOSE THREE (20 pts.)

- Stage an interview with the author in which she explains the part that was the most fun or the most difficult to write OR with a major character and have him/her reflect on specific events in the story.
- Write a review of the novel where you try to convince someone to read it (book critic review)
- Write a different ending to the story (consistent with Harper Lee’s style)
- *Write several, dated diary entries from the perspective of one of the major characters (minimum 3)
- Write 2 newspaper articles published at the time of a major event in the novel
- Write a letter to the author
- Analyze three songs that relate to themes, events, or characters in the book
- Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper (editorial) expressing your feelings about a current social issue that relates to issues in *TKAM* and connect to lessons society can learn from the novel. (Consider themes of racism or prejudice, social hierarchy, education, inequality, treatment of children, etc.)
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Of your three “big” genres, you may choose ONE of the following:

- Create a maximum 2 minute visual montage or a minimum 10 slide powerpoint/slideshow that captures and elaborates on important themes, feelings, and/or events of the text. Upload to YouTube or create on Google Slideshow (no photos from the film version of the story allowed)
- Create a minimum 10-image photo slideshow of places in the Windsor area that represent scenes from the story (no photos from the film version of the story allowed)
- Create and video a Mannequin Challenge for a key scene from the story using an appropriate song; include a one-minute video explanation of why you set it up how you did & why the song fits

“Small” Genres (approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 page each) - MUST CHOOSE TWO (10 pts.)

- *Write any kind of poem about the novel (an original, a found poem, a blackout poem, etc.)
- Write an obituary for one of the characters from another character’s perspective
- Explain why you would like to have one of the characters as a friend
- Describe an experience you have had that is like an experience of one of the characters in the novel
- Explain how a character in the novel changed from the beginning to the end
- Create a crossword puzzle using characters, themes, and locations in the novel
- Create an online game of characters, events, or details from the novel (kahoot!, quizlet, jeopardy)
- Explain how you would make the novel into a movie. How would you cast it and why? Where would you film it and why? What would be important to include and what would be important to change?

Of your two “small” genres, you may choose ONE of the following:

- Draw a specific, colored, labeled map of where the story takes place (the Maycomb neighborhood, identifying where major characters live and where important things take place)
- Do a collage or piece of artwork that illustrates a major theme or idea of the book (i.e. racism, moral education, courage, commitment, etc.) (no photos from the film version of the story allowed)
- Create a color illustration of 3 major events from the book and include an explanation/description of each
- Create a cartoon strip or parody of some aspect of injustice in the novel: scapegoating of Tom Robinson, ignorance of townspeople, Ewells thinking they’re better than Robinsons, etc.
- *Write a creative “recipe,” including at least 5 ingredients, with measurements and cooking instructions. For example, a recipe for racism or prejudice, a lynching, loss of innocence, ignorance, courage, etc.

**These pieces may be handwritten.*

Things to Think About:

- There is no formal essay for this assignment, so MLA format isn’t required, though you should use it for “Discoveries” page.
- You are to type your written work to make sure that it’s legible, that you’ve taken the time to edit and finalize it, and that it’s authentic for that genre. If you think a genre would be more appropriate handwritten, you will need to clear it with me first and make it neat – points will be deducted for illegible handwriting.
- If you have an idea for a genre that isn’t listed here or an alternative way to approach a combination of genres, please discuss it with me. I’m very open to new, worthwhile, creative ideas!

Project Dates to keep in mind:

Thurs. 4/18 – Project Plan due

Mon. 4/22 – TWO genres due

Weds. 4/24 – a THIRD genre complete

Tues. 4/30 – a FOURTH and FIFTH genre complete

Project Portfolio due, with presentations given in-class, Thursday, 5/2.