GT English: *To Kill A Mockingbird* Multigenre Research Project

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of a multigenre research paper is to exhibit your understanding of genres and types of text through your research and writing on a specific topic. It will reflect your ability to read and review research in a critical way and will employ a variety of genres including prose, poetry, and even artwork. As a writer you will be limited only by your vision and imagination as to how you will present these multiple perspectives on a subject.

**What is a Multigenre research paper?** A multigenre research paper is a non-traditional research project using many different genres, depending on what the specific subject, facts, and audience calls for. We are writing a multigenre project instead of a traditional research paper to allow for student creativity. You will have the opportunity to think outside the box and experiment with interpreting what you read and how to write about what you read. You can write in multiple voices, compare, contrast, or argue multiple points of view.

**Topic:** For this project you will be researching something that you would like to explore that relates to *To Kill a Mockingbird*. As this is a GT English class, I will be allowing you to pick your topic to suit your interests. This project could focus on specific elements of a novel, or communicate your overall understanding of the novel and its characters; it could also focus on the theme(s) you found interesting, or it could focus on understanding the historical context of the novel. It could compare and contrast characters or themes or points of view. You get the idea...you can go in any direction that interests you...this project is about **YOUR** understanding of the book!

**Audience:** Your audience as always is me, your teacher, but I would also like your project to have a specific audience that you acknowledge in your Dear Reader piece (don’t panic...I will let you know what this is and what it looks like!) Depending on the genres and your topic, choose your audience. Your audience could be an audience of a certain time period, age level, class level, etc.

**Requirements:**
- Title page and Table of Contents identifying the type and title of each genre entry and its corresponding page number
- You must introduce your project with a Dear Reader letter
- Total of 5 genres—you will need to balance your genres so that you do not have all “easy” genres...at least 3 must involve writing in some way and should take time.
- Minimum of 4 different genres represented with no more than 2 of the same genres and at least 3 genre types (i.e. newspaper, poetry, narrative, etc.)
- You must show your understanding of literary elements including: Theme, character, setting, plot, literary devices (alliteration, metaphor, personification, etc.), symbolism, tone, and mood.
- You must have a reflection at the end of the project
- Works Cited using MLA citation with at least 8 sources

**Grading:** You will receive a rubric that will guide you in making this project easier as well as help you know exactly what I am looking for in your paper. This assignment will be worth 200 Points on your grade as it is the assessment for our *To Kill a Mockingbird* unit as well as a summative assignment to help me know how you are progressing in achieving the 9th grade common core standards. I will also be looking at how
your Dear Reader letter introduces your audience, topic, and purpose. You will be evaluated on how effectively your entries conform to the genre conventions and expectations. I will also be evaluating how well you represent your understanding of the book and your research.

**Short Genre List:** Do not limit yourself to these genres; you may do just about any genre. If you have an idea of a possible genre and you are not sure if it would work, I can give you guidance.

- Journal Entries
- Personal Letter
- Greeting Card
- Schedule/Things to Do List
- Inner Monologue
- Representing Internal Conflicts
- Classified or Personal Ads
- Philosophical Questions
- Top Ten List
- Glossary or Dictionary
- Poetry
- Song
- Autobiographical Essay
- Contest Entry Application
- Business Letter or Correspondence
- Biographical Summary
- Speech or Debate
- Historical Times Context Essay
- Textbook Article
- Science Article
- Report/Business Article or Report
- Lesson Plan
- Encyclopedia Article
- Short Scene from a Play with Notes for Stage Directions
- Short Scene from a Movie with Notes for Camera Shots
- Dialogue of a Conversation among Two or More People
- Short Story
- Adventure Magazine Story
- Ghost Story
- Myth, Tall Tale, or Fairy Tale
- Talk Show Interview or Panel
- Recipe
- Classroom Discussion
- Character Analysis
- Case Study
- Comedy Routine
- Parody
- Liner Notes
- Picture book
- Chart or Diagram with Explanation and Analysis
- Brochure
- Newsletter
- Map with Explanation and Analysis
- Magazine or TV Advertisement or Infomercial
- Restaurant Description and Menu
- Travel Brochure
- How-To or Directions Booklet
- Receipts, Applications, Deeds, Budgets or Other Documents
- Wedding, Graduation or Special Event Invitation
- Birth Certificate
- Local News Report
- Pop-Up book
- Review and Poster for a Movie, Book, or TV Program
- Board Game with Answers and Rules
- Comic Strip or Graphic Novel Excerpt
- Power Point Presentation
- Informational Video
- Web Site
- Future News Story
- Letter to the Editor
- Newspaper or Magazine Feature/Human Interest Story
- Obituary, Eulogy or Tribute
- News Program Story or Announcement
- Tabloid Article
- E-mail
- IM conversation
- Postcard
- Pro-con list
- Ransom note
- Informative Brochure
- Memo
- Outline
- Collage
- Business card
- Choose your own adventure
- Dialogue
- Awards
- Photograph
- Wanted poster
- Top ten list
- Scrapbook page(s)
- Resume
- Application
- Interview
- Graphs
- Poster
- Advice column
- Cartoon
- Invitation
- Trivia game
- Skit
- Timeline
- Book review
Some important things to remember as you work on your Multigenre Research Project:

- The project needs to be informative
- Avoid repeating information in several different pieces—I’m not asking you to present the same facts 5 different ways. I want to see new information and/or perspective in each piece
- One way to avoid repetition, and make sure you include all important information, is to plan ahead (do all the assignments I give you leading up to the project). Taking notes and highlighting research will also help.
- **ALL WRITING MUST BE YOUR OWN!!!** You can’t just find a journal entry someone has written and use it as one of your genre pieces. You can include information and quotes but they must be cited.
- I will **not accept** a project without citation and works cited. Projects **will not be accepted** late (even with a rain check)!
- You should use at least 8 sources (including *To Kill a Mockingbird*) to get your information. Use your time wisely while researching so you can get the most out of your research!
- Your project should include variety. It shouldn’t be all short pieces, all newspaper-type pieces…etc. As they say, variety is the spice of life, and you’ll need a lot of spice for this project.
- Don’t get so involved with the genre that you forget to pay attention to the writing. It must be proofread and must include all elements of the genre and all information needed.
- Your project should be professional and fun
- Balance some of the more “demanding” genres, such as an essay, book review, article, etc. with “less demanding” genres like Certificates, business card, outline, to do list, etc.
- **MOST importantly…HAVE fun, BE creative, and DO your best work!!!**
- Try new things and take risks…this should be fun and challenging at the same time.