To Kill a Mockingbird
Psychological Character Profile Assignment

Directions

Choose one character from To Kill a Mockingbird. Think about the numerous factors that ultimately shape the way this character thinks and behaves. From the list that we have created as a class, choose the five factors that you think are the most influential. Then, as a group, create a poster demonstrating the factors that you have chosen.

Poster Expectations

For each factor your group chooses:

- write a well-developed paragraph explaining why this factor is one of the most influential for this character. Use the text to support your answer. Place this paragraph on the poster.
- select one quotation/piece of text taken directly from the novel that you feel illustrates this factor’s influence on the life of the character. Link this to research found on www.socialpsychology.org. Display this on the poster.
- find a symbol that you think portrays this factor. Write a well-developed paragraph that describes the significance of the symbol. This symbol should also be displayed on the poster.

As this is a writing assignment that will be shared as part of a presentation, be sure to use standard conventions of grammar and mechanics.

Group Roles

Each group has three members. The groups must determine who will fill each role.

Evidence Finder

The evidence finder will write the paragraph explaining why the group chose the specific factor and how this factor was influential for the character during the course of the novel.

Quote Finder

The quote finder must find a quote for each factor that best exemplifies this factor’s influence on the life of a character and then link the quotation to research found on www.socialpsychology.org in a paragraph.

Symbol Selector

The symbol selector is responsible for selecting a symbol for each factor and finding a means of depicting this symbol on the final project; the symbol selector must write a paragraph regarding the significance of the symbol and its relation to the factor. You may wish to utilize the Dictionary of Literary Symbols to aid with this part of the final project.
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All group members will

- help each other in gathering information.
- help to assemble the poster.
- participate in the presentation of the group’s poster.

Guidelines for Presentation

Each group will present its findings to the class. In the spirit of Atticus’s profession, each group will act as if the character that it selected for the profile is testifying in a trial.

Each group member will take turns acting as the character that the group selected. Each member will have to explain one of the factors that influenced the character’s actions, speaking as if he/she is the character. You should apply/present the research and information that you produced on their posters.

Each student will have to testify for approximately 5 minutes, with each group participating for 15 minutes. At the end of the presentation, the other students in the class will be able to “cross examine” the group by asking any questions.