**Freshman English**  
**To Kill a Mockingbird Setting Research Project**

**Objective:** To research an aspect of the 1930s in order to gain an understanding of the setting, in terms of time and place, of Harper Lee’s *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

**Instructions:** Select one of the following eight topics to research and then sign up for that topic on the posted signup sheet. There will be 3 or 4 (max!) members per group. Topic choices will be on a first come, first served basis. Once there are 4 students signed up for a given topic (depending on the class period), that group is full and that topic is no longer available.

Once together, gather enough information to put together a thorough and informative 5 to 10 minute presentation that includes textual and visual information.

**Requirements:** In this assignment you will practice the skill of preparing a 5-10 minute presentation related to your research. You will research (at home and at school) a social or historic issue from the 1930s. Once you have completed your research and formulated an opinion, you will organize your ideas and practice your public speaking skills by preparing a class presentation on your research. Remember, learning to research and present well is hard work! To do this assignment, you will need to complete the following steps:

**Part 1: Research**

Research your topic. We will meet in the E236 computer lab on Tuesday (3/26) and Wednesday (3/27) to give you some class time to work on this step. You may still need to do research outside of class.

**Part 2: Prepare a 5-10 Minute Presentation**

1. Organize your research notes and identify the critical pieces that must be in your presentation.
2. Brainstorm a creative way to present your information. Some examples: a PowerPoint presentation, a documentary film, or a news program. Regardless of what you choose to do, the goal is to engage your classmates and to educate them about your topic.
3. Practice your presentation (time yourself!).

**Grading:**

- Overall Presentation: 40 points (homework/classwork)
- Self & Peer Evaluation (you grade yourself AND the members of your group): 40 points (participation)

**Due Date:** Monday, March 28th

**Possible topics:** All topics relate to the United States in the 1930s. See below for more detail.

1. Women of the 1930s
2. Economic Concerns of the 1930s
3. Science/Technology/Innovation during 1930s
4. Education in the 1930s
5. Status of African-Americans in the 1930s
6. Popular Entertainment of the 1930s
7. The Headlines of the 1930s
8. Political Concerns of the 1930s

[See the other side for additional information about these topics]
Women of the 1930s:
- Fashion, careers, family roles, taboos for women, the workplace, wages
- Gertrude Stein, Mrs. Wallis Simpson, Margaret Mitchell, Jane Addams, Pearl S. Buck, Amelia Earhart, Eleanor Roosevelt

Economic Concerns of the 1930s:
- President Herbert Hoover
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal," Social Security
- Wall Street
- Statistics: population, wages and salaries, costs of home, food, cars, rent

Science/Technology/Innovation during 1930s:
- Television, radio, Chicago World’s Fair (1933)
- U.S. Nobel Prize winners
- Glenn Curtiss, Sigmund Freud, Thomas Edison, Thomas Hunt Morgan
- Golden Gate Bridge, Boulder Dam

Education in the 1930s:
- Educational Reforms: John Dewey - "Experience and Education"
- Level of education - state laws
- Literacy
- Schools in rural America during the Depression

Status of African-Americans in the 1930s:
- Jim Crow laws, voting rights, civil rights, education, occupations in North and South
- Discrimination, treatment by white people.
- Education for African-Americans
- Effects on African-Americans of Great Depression & New Deal.

Popular Entertainment of the 1930s:
- Movies, Hollywood stars
- Dance
- Radio programs
- Popular music: "The Cotton Club"
- Shirley Temple, Charlie Chaplin, Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Judy Garland, Salvador Dali

The Headlines of the 1930s:
- What and who made the news
- Sports, disasters, "big" events, 21st amendment, crime
- Howard Hughes, Charles Lindbergh, Knute Rockne, Joe Louis, John Dillinger, George Eastman

Political Concerns of the 1930s:
- International Relations
- Relationships with other world leaders (Hitler, Stalin, Chamberlain/Churchill)
- League of Nations