***To Kill a Mockingbird* Socratic Seminar Questions**

1. Choose one of the following topics and explain its importance to the novel: good vs. evil, bravery, fear, and perspective. Cite specific examples from the text.
2. Explain the effect of the point of view of the novel. Explain how setting has impacted the story.
3. If you could ask any character one question, what would you ask them and why? (How might they respond?)
4. Describe one of the examples of injustice in the novel. How can injustice damage a society? How can injustice lead to positive change? What can regular people do to fight against injustice?
5. Describe one theme of the novel. Why is this significant?
6. Explain one example of prejudice in the novel. At a psychological level, what are the common denominators that link all forms of prejudice? Is it possible to be free of prejudice? Have you ever met anyone who was?
7. If a close friend or family member were to make a prejudiced comment, would you protest? Why or why not? What about a stranger or acquaintance -- would you respond in that situation?
8. Are stereotypes ever a good thing? Does the categorization of people always result in prejudice? What about categorizing people in a positive way -- does that result in prejudice? Does the very categorization of people -- for example, as female, a college student, African-American, or Texan -- necessarily rob them of individuality?
9. When, if ever, is it best to remain colorblind to race and ethnicity? When, if ever, is it best to celebrate multicultural differences? Do the goals of colorblindness and multiculturalism conflict with each other?
10. What do you think the most difficult aspect is of being a racial, ethnic, or religious minority member? What is the most difficult aspect of being a majority group member?
11. Choose one of the quotations below that you feel best exemplifies your understanding of the effect conflict has on society. Reflect on the quote by including whether or not you agree with the quote and give several reasons to explain. Relate the quote to the novel.
    1. Preconceived notions are the locks on the door to wisdom.  ~Merry Browne
    2. Judge me all you want, just keep the verdict to yourself.  ~From a Winston advertisement
    3. Prejudices are the chains forged by ignorance to keep men apart.  ~Countess of Blessington
    4. If only closed minds came with closed mouths.  ~As seen on a button at evolvefish.com
    5. Prejudice is a great time saver. You can form opinions without having to get the facts. ~E.B. White
    6. Prejudices, not being founded on reason, cannot be removed by argument. ~Samuel Johnson