To Kill a Mockingbird – the Podcast
Using decomposition to explore characters and themes from the novel

Name: _____

You and your team will be creating a podcast about To Kill a Mockingbird. Your podcast will be roughly five minutes long, and will include music, interviews, conversations and more.

What exactly fills the time of your podcast is up to you. You must choose options from the list below, making sure that your total number of points is at least 50. These points will make up the effort half of your project grade; the remaining fifty points will be assigned based on the rubric at the end of this packet. The following pages have more information and a brief example for each of these options. **Do not use the example in your podcast, unless it says otherwise!**

5 points each

- Commercial from a sponsor that relates to one of the themes or symbols from the novel
- Intro music to start your podcast <u>and</u> exit music to end your podcast (5 points total)
- Song snippet that is thematically relevant to the novel
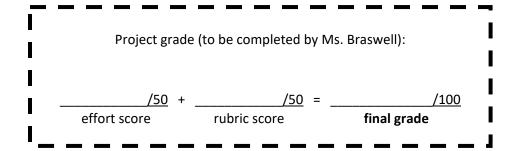
10 points each

- Interview with a character about a specific event in the novel
- Interview with a character about another character in the novel
- Conversation between two characters in the novel

15 points each

- Interview with a character about a central theme from the novel
- Interview with Harper Lee about a central theme from or her inspiration for the novel
- News story about a related real-world historical event
- Poem or rap about a central theme or major event in the novel

If you have another idea, you must ask if it is acceptable and how many points it is worth.

You will work with your team to first create an outline of your podcast. Once your outline is approved, you will write out a complete script and rehearse it, seeing how long your podcast will be as planned. Once your script is approved, you may begin recording and editing your podcast. **You cannot start recording or editing until your script is approved.**

Project grade (to be completed by Ms. Braswell):

_____/50 + _____/50 = _____/100
effort score   rubric score   **final grade**

Commercial from a sponsor that relates to one of the themes or symbols from the novel (5pts)

Choose a theme or symbol from the novel and identify a product or company that is related to that theme/symbol. Create a short commercial or "this podcast is sponsored by…" message that explains the significance of that theme/symbol in the novel.

For example, you could have an advertisement for a bird-hunting rifle that claims to miraculously steal the innocence of the user the first time they score a kill, with a money-back guarantee!

Intro music to start your podcast and exit music to end your podcast (5pts)

The podcast platform we will be using, Soundtrap, has a large catalog of music loops and melodies you can add into your podcast for free. Choose one to start your podcast, and another to close it out. You can also add music to transition between the other components. This is the only podcast component that doesn't directly relate to the novel.

Song snippet that is thematically relevant to the novel (5pts)

Soundtrap also allows you to upload mp3s into your podcast. Find a school-appropriate song that lyrically relates to a theme from the novel, and identify a twenty- to thirty-second segment of the song that best demonstrates that connection. Introduce the song by explaining how it relates to the theme.

Email eli@excelwa.org with the title and artist of the song, and he will email you back an mp3 that you can upload to Soundtrap. You can only have one song snippet, and it must not be longer than thirty seconds.

For example, the chorus to Michael Jackson's "Man in the Mirror" talks about making the world a better place by focusing on yourself:

I'm starting with the man in the mirror
I'm asking him to change his ways
And no message could have been any clearer
If you wanna make the world a better place
Take a look at yourself and then make a change

Interview with a character about a specific event in the novel (10pts)

Choose a character (other than Scout) to interview about something that happens in the novel. One of your team members will be the interviewer, and another team member will act as the character you've chosen. You should ask at least three questions about the event – questions like what happened, how the character responded, how the character was changed by the event, etc.

For example, you could interview Atticus about his reaction to Tom Robinson's trial. You <u>may</u> do this example in your podcast if you'd like.

Interview with a character about another character in the novel (10pts)

Choose a character (other than Scout) to interview about another character in the novel. One of your team members will be the interviewer, and another team member will act as the character you've chosen. You should ask at least three questions about the character – questions like their relationship with the other character, their feelings towards that character, a memory of a time shared with that character, etc.

For example, you could interview Jem about his relationship with Scout, and how his opinion of her changes over the course of the book. You <u>may</u> do this example in your podcast if you'd like.

Conversation between two characters in the novel (10pts)

Choose two characters (other than Scout) who will have a conversation. They can discuss an event that happens in the novel, a major event, a theme, another character, etc. Both characters will be played by members of your team. <u>Do not</u> just read from or paraphrase the novel – their conversation should be entirely made up.

For example, Atticus and Alexandra (his sister) could have a conversation about their concerns for Scout's safety during Tom Robinson's trial.

Interview with a character about a central theme from the novel (15pts)

Choose a character (other than Scout) to interview about another character in the novel. One of your team members will be the interviewer, and another team member will act as the character you've chosen. You should ask this character at least three questions about their relationship to a central theme from the novel – what they think about it at the start, what they think about it at the end, how it affected their decisions, how it affects them later in life, etc.

For example, you could interview one of the jurors about ethics and morality, exploring what they thought about an all-white jury and if they think what happened to Tom was fair. You <u>may</u> do this example in your podcast if you'd like.

Interview with Harper Lee about a central theme from or her inspiration for the novel (15pts)

One of your team members will interview Harper Lee (the author, as played by another team member). The interview should consist of at least three questions, and should focus on one of the central themes from the novel and/or her inspiration for the novel.

For example, you could interview her about how racial issues during her childhood were portrayed in the book. You <u>may</u> do this example in your podcast if you'd like.

News story about a related real-world historical event (15pts)

Research a real-world historical event that you think may have inspired the novel, or somehow relates to the events portrayed in the novel. Present this event as a news story in your podcast, giving facts about what happened as well as explaining how it relates to what happens in the novel.

For example, many people believe the 1930s Scottsboro Boys trial was a major inspiration for Tom Robinson's trial. You <u>may</u> do this example in your podcast if you'd like.

Poem or rap about a central theme or major event in the novel (15pts)

This one is really up to you. Write a poem or rap inspired by something that happens in or a central theme from the novel, and read/perform it during your podcast. The more creative, the better!

Rubric

	Doesn't Meet Expectations [0]	Approaching Expectations [1-4]	Meets Expectations [5-8]	Exceeds Expectations [9-10]	Score
Outline	Outline not completed	Outline shows little planning effort Few details included Outline is messy and has many spelling and grammar errors	Outline shows some planning effort Some details included Outline is a little messy and has some spelling and grammar errors	Outline shows significant planning effort Many details included Outline is neat and polished and has very few spelling and grammar errors	
Script	Script not completed	Script is incomplete Dialogue is not written in complete sentences Script has many spelling and grammar errors	Script is mostly complete Dialogue is mostly written in complete sentences Script has few spelling and grammar errors	Script is complete and professional Dialogue is written in complete sentences Script has very few or no spelling and grammar errors	
Podcast: Content	Content does not follow any of the guidelines Connections to the novel are non-existent Content is boring	Content follows some of the guidelines Connections to the novel are weak Content is sometimes interesting	Content follows most of the guidelines Connections to the novel are strong Content is consistently interesting	Content follows all of the guidelines Connections to the novel are rich and very strong Content is creative and captivating	
Podcast: Professionalism	Speech is impossible to understand Volume levels are all over the place Speakers sound like they do not take their roles seriously	Speech is hard to understand at times Volume levels fluctuate significantly Speakers sometimes do not take their roles seriously	Speech is occasionally hard to understand Volume levels fluctuate at times Speakers usually take their roles seriously	Speech is clear and understandable throughout Volume levels are well-balanced throughout entire podcast Speakers consistently take their roles seriously	
Teamwork	No evidence of collaboration All team members fought or ignored one another One person seemed to make all of the decisions without consulting teammates	Little evidence of collaboration Two team members fought or ignored each other One person seemed to make most of the decisions without consulting teammates	Some evidence of collaboration Team functioned reasonably well to split work Team shared decision-making for most decisions	Strong evidence of great collaboration Team members showed great leadership and cooperation in sharing work and decision-making	

Total:

/ 50