

Body Paragraph #1 Sample

1. Racial prejudice, arguably the most common form of discrimination, is the basis for the trial, one of the most memorable scenes in the text. **2.** During it Atticus Finch defends Tom Robinson, an African American, against Mayella Ewell's allegations of rape. Tom is faced with countless racial slurs prior to and during the trial, but Mr. Gilmer, the prosecuting attorney, is the most persistent. **3.** Mr. Gilmer speaks down to Tom throughout the cross examination with questions like “Had your eye on her a long time, hadn't you, boy?” (223). **4.** Interestingly though, Scout is not the one affected by this treatment. Instead, Dill is the one brought to tears. “It ain't right, somehow it ain't right to do 'em that way. Hasn't anybody got any business talkin' like that – it just makes me sick” (226). While Scout defends Mr. Gilmer's racism as just part of his job, Dill feels the humiliation as Tom must have. **2.** Scout's perception of racism does become more questioning, however, when she reaches the third grade. After her teacher, Miss Gates, becomes upset over Hitler's treatment of the Jews in Europe during a discussion of current events, Scout questions her motives because of her discriminatory comments after Tom's trial. **5.** Scout tells Jem, “I heard her say it's time somebody taught 'em a lesson, they were getting' way above themselves, an' the next thing they think they can do is marry us” (283). Scout goes on to ask, “Jem, how can you hate Hitler so bad an' then turn around and be ugly about folks right at home-” (283). **6.** She may not have the adult world completely figured out at this point, but Scout is at least starting to realize that her society divides people up by race.