English 1

Mr. Scholtz

***To Kill a Mockingbird:* Background Webquest**

Before reading To Kill a Mockingbird, we need to learn about what life was like in the American South during the 1930’s. Instead of taking notes, you will find the information yourself using your phone or a computer. We will review this information in class.

**Definitions**

Define the following terms in terms you understand. Use your computer or device to look up the definitions. Write them in a way that makes sense to you.

1. Discrimination:
2. Segregation:
3. Civil Rights:
4. Reconstruction Era:

**Questions**

Answer the following questions [using this website from the Smithsonian Institute](http://americanhistory.si.edu/brown/history/1-segregated/segregated-america.html). **Use complete sentences!**  You won’t find the answers to the *On Your Own* questions in the reading. Instead, you need to offer your opinion.

**Part I: The Roots of Segregation.**

1. What was the goal of the Reconstruction Amendments?
2. What did each of the following Constitutional Amendments do?
   1. 13th:
   2. 14th:
   3. 15th:
3. Why was giving former slaves the right to vote so important?
4. *On your own:* Why do you think taking away someone’s right to vote makes them less powerful? (5-6 sentences) x

***Part II: Jim Crow Laws***

1. Why did many politicians stop trying to protect African Americans at the end of Reconstruction?
2. What was the goal of Jim Crow Laws?
3. Did Jim Crow laws affect only African Americans?
4. Describe how Jim Crow Laws affect where people lived?
5. *On Your Own:* Imagine you live in a place that has a set of laws that discriminate against a certain people. How might affect how those people think about themselves? (5-6 sentences)

***Part III: Racism into the 20th Century***

1. Was racism just an issue in the Southern States? What example is used?
2. What did the Supreme Court rule in Plessy Vs. Ferguson?
3. Was segregation legal in the United States in the early 1900’s? How do you know?
4. *On Your Own:* Imagine a politician tried to promote segregation today. How might people react? How would you react? (5-6 sentences)