



**International Center  
for Leadership  
in Education**



**Gold Seal Lesson:**

Copernicus Education Gateway

<b>Author(s):</b> <i>Elizabeth Pierce</i>			<b>Lesson Title:</b> <i>To Kill A Mockingbird-The Legal Brief</i>			
<b>Grade Span</b>			<b>ICLE Application Model</b>			
<i>K-4</i>	<i>5-8</i>	<i>9-12</i> <i>X</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i> <i>X</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>

### Instructional Focus:

**Reading** Students read a variety of grade level materials, applying strategies appropriate to various situations

**Writing** Students write for a variety of purposes and audiences with sophistication and complexity appropriate to the grade level

**Listening** Students listen for a variety of purposes appropriate to the grade level

**Speaking** Students speak for a variety of purposes and audiences with sophistication and complexity appropriate to the grade level

### Performance Task

Judge Taylor from *To Kill A Mockingbird* should have asked Atticus Finch to prepare a legal brief for the Tom Robinson case. After researching the career of a legal aide and discussing this career option with the school guidance counselor, the student assumes the role as Atticus Finch's legal aide. The student must research how to write a legal brief. Student will interview one lawyer or legal aide to help guide student in unfamiliar legal terms and format. The student will organize generalized legal brief information and write a coherent legal brief for the case of *Bob Ewell vs. Tom Robinson*. The legal brief must be computer generated and professionally presentable in appearance.

## ICLE Essential Skills

Apply in writing the rules and conventions of grammar, usage, punctuation, paragraphing and spelling.

1

Gather information from a variety of sources, including electronic sources, and summarize, analyze, and evaluate its use for a report.

3

Identify, collect and/or select pertinent information while reading.

5

Draft a report that engages an audience and is concise, clear, well-organized, accurate, and informative.

12

Understand the personal, social, cultural and historical significance of a text.

23

Define a position on a controversial topic and write a persuasive essay or make an oral presentation likely to persuade a specific audience to change an opinion or take a particular action.

27

Understand the nature and purpose of and be able to word process a variety of formats including essays, business letters, memos, instructions, policy statements, technical proposals, user manuals, lab reports, etc.

30

Use ideas from journals, class discussion and literary criticism to write a paper that expresses a personal opinion, sustains a controlling idea, or uses specific evidence from literary texts to support an opinion.

34

Gather information such as data, facts, ideas, concepts, and generalizations from oral sources.

51

Participate in a one-on-one conference by relating essential information, asking questions on the topic, and using language to clarify information.

69

## Scoring Guide:

Score each of the following characteristics on a scale of 4 to 0, where 4 = surpasses expectations; 3 = high quality performance; 2 = satisfactory quality performance; 1 = minimum quality performance; 0 = does not meet expectations.

### CHARACTERISTICS

#### CRITERIA SCORE

- **Interviews Guidance Counselor (measurable by asking counselor and student)**
- Makes appointment
- Conversation is productive

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- **Researches How to Write Legal Brief**
- Makes proper use of technology using at least two internet sites
- Uses other various sources for research

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- **Interviews Lawyer or Legal Aide (measurable by assigning cooperative professional and asking)**
- Makes appointment
- Conversation is productive

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- **Writes Legal Brief**
- Applies the rules and conventions of grammar, usage, punctuation, paragraphing, spelling
- Presents information in well-organized fashion that will be clear to the target audience
- Uses editing and revising skills to improve effectiveness and accuracy
- Defines a position on a topic and writes persuasively to persuade a specific audience

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- **Technology**
- Makes proper use of technology for word processing

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- **Task Management**
- Manages time wisely
- Manages communication with people of institutions in a timely and courteous fashion
- Cooperates with others as needed

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## Keywords

English Language Arts	Mathematics	Science
<b>Reading</b> Comprehension In Context Independent Reading Language Structure Research Technology Integration Vocabulary	<b>Algebra</b>	<b>Earth Science</b>
<b>Writing</b> Careers Composition Organization Technical Writing Technology Vocabulary Word Processing	<b>Geometry</b>	<b>Life Science</b>
<b>Communications</b> Interviewing Listening Paraphrasing	<b>Statistics</b>	<b>Chemistry</b>
<b>Literature</b> American Literature Character Literature Fiction Non-fiction Plot Point of View Summary Voice	<b>Calculus</b>	<b>Physics</b>
<b>Other</b> Law Latin Roots	<b>Trigonometry</b>	<b>Other</b>
	<b>Other</b>	