

HANDOUT 7.1B Assessing Textual Evidence

Assess the safety of each of the six pieces of textual evidence below. That is, decide how likely it is that your audience would accept the piece of evidence. Remember, even after you establish safety, you still have to answer the “So what?” question and explain why the evidence matters.

In favor of Atticus as a role model:

Throughout the novel, it always seemed as though Atticus knew what to do.



Completely safe

Not safe at all

Miss Maudie says, “Atticus Finch won’t win, he can’t win, but he’s the only man in these parts who can keep a jury out so long in a case like that” (p. 246).



Completely safe

Not safe at all

Atticus lives up to the definition of courage that he applies to Mrs. Dubose. Atticus says to Jem, “I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. It’s when you know you’re licked before you begin but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what” (p. 128).



Completely safe

Not safe at all

Against Atticus as a role model:

At the end of the book, Atticus and Heck Tate conspire to lie about what really happened to Bob Ewell.



Completely safe

Not safe at all

Atticus never calls adults out for their bad and racist behavior.



Completely safe

Not safe at all

Atticus never wanted to take Tom Robinson’s case. He tells his brother, “You know, I’d hope to get through life without a case of this kind, but John Taylor pointed at me and said, ‘You’re it’” (p. 100).



Completely safe

Not safe at all