Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Moral Choices Shaping Our World: 500 Word Essay***

**Purpose:**

Through the lens of To Kill a Mockingbird, please reflect of what works to create a society of thoughtful citizens who think deeply about the way they live as they make choices in their local communities and confront issues of global concern. Through this essay, students should discover that their choices do matter and will feel compelled to think carefully about the decisions they make, realizing that their choices will ultimately shape the world.

**Prompt:**

Elie Wiesel (1928-2016), the Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate, once spoke of the importance of learning about people who were rescuers during the Holocaust. He said, “Let us not forget, after all, that there is always a moment when the moral choice is made. Often because of one story, or one book, or one person, we are able to make a different choice, a choice for humanity, for life.”

Please write an essay responding the Wiesel’s quote in 500 words or less. What story, book, or person (think of To Kill a Mockingbird) has influenced your thinking about ethical decision making? What has it taught you about how you can participate as a caring, thoughtful citizen in the world around you?

**Incentives:**

All of your essays will be entered into the “Facing History and Ourselves” yearly essay writing contest for a chance to **win up to $5,000.00!** **Yes…$5,000.00!**

Three (3) national winners will win a $5,000.00

Seven (7) national winners will win $1,000.00

**Other Incentives:**

**For a grade!**

\_\_\_\_/20 -Specifically address the prompt and use specific examples from your own life as well as from To Kill a Mockingbird.

\_\_\_\_/10 – Organization of thoughts entices the reader to read more (strong hook/ introduction and thought-provoking conclusion)

\_\_\_\_/5 – Spicy language is used to show high level writing and critical thinking

\_\_\_\_/5- 5 or less mistakes in conventions- spelling, grammar, capitalization, punctuation

\_\_\_\_/5- Your voice shines through in the essay and I can tell you wrote your own thoughts and ideas.

\_\_\_\_5- You use a variation of simple, compound, and complex sentence to enhance sentence fluency.

\_\_\_\_/**50 Total**

**500 word, or less, essay is due Monday March 13th!**