Building Context: *To Kill a Mockingbird*

First, read **We Shall Overcome: The Need for Change**
http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/travel/civilrights/change.htm for general background information on what life was like for an African American living in the south under Jim Crow laws.

Then, examine **Remembering Jim Crow**
http://americanradioworks.publicradio.org/features/remembering/. Pay close attention to the following sections: "Bitter Times," "Danger Violence and Exploitation," "Whites Remember Jim Crow," and "Jim Crow Laws." Each of these sections is a link that leads to vivid descriptions of the south during the time of Jim Crow. Of special interest is the link to "Jim Crow Laws" which lists and describes by state and topic (education, housing, entertainment, etc.) the ways in which blacks and whites were to be separated.

Finally, reflect on and respond to the following questions in your composition notebook:

1. Define Jim Crow. What is a Jim Crow law?

2. Describe the economic, social, and legal status of African Americans during the time of Jim Crow.

3. Consider what the slide pictures and the audio clips tell you about life for African Americans under Jim Crow laws—describe what you learned from looking at the slides and hearing the voices referring to specific stories to personalize your response?

4. How were African Americans attacked during this time? What legal recourse did African Americans have against acts of violence waged against them?

5. How do southern whites now regard their treatment of African Americans during this time? Why do they feel this way?