**Viewing Assignment**

Moral & Ethical Issues in John Grisham’s *A Time to Kill*

**Introduction:**

Woven between its rich rhetorical appeals, *A Time to Kill* highlights several important moral and ethical issues, many of which are still relevant today. While viewing, your task is to consider these issues, and develop a personal opinion based on the ideas presented in the film, as well as your own prior knowledge.

As you watch the film, make note of key scenes, events, and dialogue (as well as the approximate time – beginning/middle/end – at which they occurred) that relate to each of the 6 questions below. Once you have finished viewing the film, select 1 of these issues and use your notes to discuss it 1) from the point of view of the screenwriter/director, and 2) from the point of view of yourself.

**Specific Criteria:**

1. Before Viewing: Read over each of the 6 questions, and make sure that you understand what they are asking.
2. During Viewing: You must take notes for EACH of the 6 questions, in order to get full marks. You should be able to come up with a minimum of 2 points for each.
3. After Viewing: Your final written response should be approximately 1-2 pages in length. It may be typed or written. Be sure to answer your chosen question from both the filmmaker’s perspective (based on the evidence presented in the film), and your own.

**The Question You Need to Answer:**

Explain how *A Time to Kill* reveals John Grisham’s perspective on one of the six viewing questions presented prior to viewing the film. Compare this perspective to your own.

**Organization:**

Your response should be organized into two **SEX-C** paragraphs:

1. Paragraph 1 – contains screenwriter’s opinion on your chosen question (you must support this using the evidence you collected while viewing the film)
2. Paragraph 2 – contains your opinion on your chosen question
3. Transition – Make sure to use a transition statement that compares/contrasts Grisham’s perspective with your own, in order to enhance your audience’s understanding

**Assessment:**

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| **Criteria** | **0** | **1-2** | **3-4** | **5** |
| Record Information (3.3.2)  🡪 Depth, accuracy, and relevancy of notes taken during viewing |  |  |  |  |
| Develop New Understanding (1.2.1, 1.2.4)  🡪 Depth, accuracy, and clarity of the two opinions (screenwriter’s and yours) and the apparentness of comparison/contrast |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Mark:** | **/10** | | | |