*Just Mercy* Discussion Questions

**Chapter 1**

Questions to write on Word or Google Doc:

1. How did Stevenson’s background prepare him for law school?
2. In the introduction, he discusses his grandmother’s background and what impact that had on his career choices. What from your own personal background is influencing your post-secondary plans?
3. What famous novel was written in Monroe County, AL, and how is it relevant to Just Mercy?

Activities (short answer responses) to submit via Word or Google Doc once completed:

1. Spend some time researching incarceration rates for other wealthy nations; prepare a document that compares how long people serve for various crimes.
2. Research *Loving v. Virginia*. What surprises you about this case? Do you think these issues are still relevant in our current times?

**Chapter 2**

Questions to write on Word or Google Doc:

1. What are Stand your ground laws? Does Washington State have Stand Your Ground laws? Do you support them? Why or why not?

2. Did the supervisors of the officers who stopped Stevenson respond fairly to Stevenson’s official complaint?

3. How did the senior citizen attending Stevenson’s church lecture earn his “medals of honor”?

Activity (short answer responses) to submit via Word or Google Doc once completed:

1. Research response to police misconduct in the United States; based on your information determine what approaches are effective means of reducing police brutality and increasing accountability.

**Chapter 3**

Questions to write on Word or Google Doc:

1. What is the importance of the 1986 Batson v. Kentucky ruling?
2. If you were in Chestnut or Boynton’s position, would you have tried to move the trial? Why?
3. Who were some of Walter McMillian’s most important allies?
4. Walter was both poor and black. Do you think his story would have played out the same if he had been white and/or more financially advantaged?