

Essay assignment: Write an expository/argumentative essay that interprets a thematic element in John Steinbeck’s *Of Mice and Men*.

TRAIT (1-6 points per trait) SCORE

<p>Rhetorical Effectiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The paper has an awareness of and respect for the writer-audience-subject relationship • The writer’s voice is clear, compelling, and engaging • The writer crafts his/her prose with a clear sense of purpose • The overall effect of the prose is fresh and insightful • The prose holds the reader’s attention 	
<p>Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The paper is carefully but subtly organized from beginning to end • The paragraphs are well sequenced and logically ordered, each with its own point • An inviting introduction leads to a clear and defensible thesis statement • A thoughtful conclusion returns to the thesis and gives a sense of closure • Well positioned transitions connect statements, evidence, ideas, and paragraphs • The title is pertinent and evocative 	
<p>Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The body paragraphs develop— via explanation and illustration—the thesis statement • Each body paragraph supports its own topic sentence with ample evidence • The evidence includes, when economical and appropriate, quotes from the novel • The supporting examples and illustrative details are relevant to the topic and thesis • The paper draws conclusions via sound evidence and logical reasoning 	
<p>Sentence Fluency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sentence structure is as easy to read as it is interesting • The sentences feel crafted; they have a pleasing flow, rhythm, and cadence • The sentences vary in length as well as in structure • Transitions naturally connect one sentence to another • The paper avoids unintentional fragments or run-ons 	
<p>Conventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The paper contains few distractions caused by unconventional sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, usage, or spelling • Mechanical errors do not detract from the content of the essay • The paper follows these format conventions: double spaced pages with 1” margins; size 12 Times font; name, date, course, teacher in upper right corner • The following items are stapled in this order: rubric; essay; peer/teacher edited drafts 	

6-4 = increasing evidence of strengths (6 = highly effective; publication ready)
 3-1 = weaknesses overwhelm the strengths (1 = very weak; revision mandatory)
 [Essay = 30 points total; 27=90%=A-; 24=80%=B-; 21=70%=C-; 18=60%=D-]

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