# Literary Analysis Essay Planning Guide: *Of Mice and Men*

Name _____ **8th Grade ELA**

**Prompt:** A main theme in *Of Mice and Men* is what the author believes about the American Dream. Through careful analysis of the characters in the novel *Of Mice and Men,* write a 5-paragraph literary analysis answering the following question: What is Steinbeck's message about the American Dream?

****Possible thesis starters**:

***The American Dream is not worth pursuing because...***

***The American Dream is worth pursuing because...***

## Introductory Paragraph

**Hook:** Grab your reader's attention.

- Quote
- Question
- Paint a picture (anecdote)
- Fact

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

**Background Information:**

- Transition that smoothly connects your hook to the book and your focus.
- Introduces the topic and text (title, author, main character, and problem -- gives a little summary of the book). *This should be more than one sentence.

**Thesis:** Directly answers the prompt. Use the name of the book and/or the author.

## Body Paragraph 1 (2-3 pieces of evidence)

**Topic Sentence:** Complete sentence that starts with a transition and introduces the first example (character). (Use prompt in topic sentence).

### Evidence 1

**Lead-in Sentence(s) AND Evidence:** Introduce your evidence with some background information.

1. What is happening in the book right now? Which character is talking?
2. Quote from the book that supports your reason. (Remember: Quote shouldn't be restating your reason.)

· For example,
· For instance,

**Commentary:** How does this quote support your reason? What does this mean or prove?

- This shows _____ because _____.
- This is evidence of _____ because _____.
- This is an example of _____ because _____.

**Evidence 2**

**Lead-in Sentence(s) AND Evidence:** Introduce your evidence with some background information.

3. What is happening in the book right now? Which character is talking?
4. Quote from the book that supports your reason. (Remember: Quote shouldn't be restating your reason.)

· For example,
· For instance,

**Commentary:** How does this quote support your reason? What does this mean or prove?

- This shows _____ because _____.
- This is evidence of _____ because _____.
- This is an example of _____ because _____.

**Concluding Sentence:** How does this prove that Steinbeck believes that the American Dream is worth/ is not worth pursuing?

- This proves _____ because _____.
- This supports _____ because _____.
- This is evidence that _____ because _____.

## Body Paragraph 2 (2-3 Pieces of Evidence)

**Topic Sentence:** Complete sentence that starts with a transition and introduces the second example (character). (Use prompt in topic sentence).

**Evidence 1**

**Lead-in Sentence(s) AND Evidence:** Introduce your evidence with some background information.

5. What is happening in the book right now? Which character is talking?
6. Quote from the book that supports your reason. (Remember: Quote shouldn't be restating your reason.)

· For example,
· For instance,

**Commentary:** How does this quote support your reason? What does this mean or prove?

- This shows _____ because _____.
- This is evidence of _____ because _____.
- This is an example of _____ because _____.

**Evidence 2**

**Lead-in Sentence(s) AND Evidence:** Introduce your evidence with some background information.

7. What is happening in the book right now? Which character is talking?
8. Quote from the book that supports your reason. (Remember: Quote shouldn't be restating your reason.)

· For example,
· For instance,

**Commentary:** How does this quote support your reason? What does this mean or prove?

- This shows _____ because _____.
- This is evidence of _____ because _____.
- This is an example of _____ because _____.

**Concluding Sentence:** How does this prove that Steinbeck believes that the American Dream is worth/ is not worth pursuing?

- This proves _____ because _____.
- This supports _____ because _____.
- This is evidence that _____ because _____.

## Body Paragraph 3 (2-3 pieces of evidence)

**Topic Sentence:** Complete sentence that starts with a transition and introduces the first example (character). (Use prompt in topic sentence).

**Evidence 1**

**Lead-in Sentence(s) AND Evidence:** Introduce your evidence with some background information.

9. What is happening in the book right now? Which character is talking?
10. Quote from the book that supports your reason. (Remember: Quote shouldn't be restating your reason.)

· For example,
· For instance,

**Commentary:** How does this quote support your reason? What does this mean or prove?

- This shows _____ because _____.
- This is evidence of _____ because _____.
- This is an example of _____ because _____.

**Evidence 2**

**Lead-in Sentence(s) AND Evidence:** Introduce your evidence with some background information.

11. What is happening in the book right now? Which character is talking?
12. Quote from the book that supports your reason. (Remember: Quote shouldn't be restating your reason.)

- For example,
- For instance,

**Commentary:** How does this quote support your reason? What does this mean or prove?

- This shows _____ because _____.
- This is evidence of _____ because _____.
- This is an example of _____ because _____.

**Concluding Sentence:** How does this prove that Steinbeck believes that the American Dream is worth/ is not worth pursuing?

This proves _____ because _____.

- This supports _____ because _____.
- This is evidence that _____ because _____.

# Concluding Paragraph

**Restatement of Thesis:**

- Transition to signal this is your final paragraph + Restate your thesis in a new way.
- Sum it up

**So What?**

- Do you think that Steinbeck's message about the American Dream holds true today? Why or why not?
- What text to self or text to world connection can you make to this theme?