

Student Name: _____
Mrs. Willhardt
English 10
Trimester 1

Possible Essay Topics for *Of Mice and Men*

Choose **ONE** of the essay topics below. Type a 5 paragraph essay on the topic using standard English conventions (correct quotation formatting, essay outline, capitals, periods, italic titles, and more).

1. **Dreams**....Steinbeck's novel *Of Mice and Men* makes the world seem like a cruel place where dreams can't come true. Write a response that discusses three of the characters' experiences in a cruel world where dreams do not come true.
2. **Discrimination**....Look at the various examples of discrimination in *Of Mice and Men*. How does discrimination affect different characters? How do characters respond to discrimination, and how does it affect their lives, and the outcome of the story?
3. **Friendship**.... How does Steinbeck portray friendship in *Of Mice and Men*? How does its presence or absence affect different characters, in their actions and in their relationships? What does it require of people, and what does it offer them in return?
4. **Loneliness**....Many characters in Steinbeck's novel *Of Mice and Men* are plagued by loneliness and alienation and are searching for friendship and acceptance. Write a response that explains how three of the characters are plagued by loneliness and alienation and are searching for friendship and acceptance.
5. **Innocents**....Innocent characters (people and animals) suffer in John Steinbeck's novel *Of Mice and Men*. Write a response that explains which characters are innocent victims and suffer in the novel.
6. **Females**....Analyze Steinbeck's portrayal of Curley's wife as the lone female on the all-male ranch. What ways does Curley's wife exercise power over others and in what ways is she subject to the power of others? What impression does he create of women? Use direct quotations and specific examples to support your views.

Essay Outline

Introduction:

Hook: Not a question

Background: Introduces title, author, and short summary not from the internet

Background: Introduces your topic- define the topic (probably the bold word in the prompt)

Thesis: Statement about what you are trying to prove

Body Paragraphs (3):

Main: What the paragraph is about, what is it focusing on that the other two are not?

Evidence: A quote fitting of the topic and accurately cited

Link: Goes beyond summarizing, actually connects to the thesis and PROVES something

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Concluding: wraps up the paragraph with strong definite voice, possibly leads into the next paragraph

Conclusion

Restate thesis: Use different words, must be arguable

Connect to world: How can this apply outside this specific novel

Call to Action: What can the reader of this essay do