**OF MICE AND MEN ESSAY GUIDELINES:**

- Choose ONE of the following essay prompts below and write a 3-5 page, professional essay in MLA style, Works cited, citing the novel, and any other resources used. Will be at least 6 paragraphs long.
- Provide quotes from the novel and evidence that will help support your thesis.
- You must have at least 2 additional sources (in addition to your novel) (criticisms or research) that enhance your thesis/argument—does not substitute.
- **BOLD PRINT** your thesis statement as it is found first in your introduction and then, as it is restated throughout your essay.
- **DO NOT GIVE ME A BOOK REPORT.** Give me a “gist” 20 words or less, to help direct your reader towards a specific scene, if necessary. Otherwise, assume your reader already knows the story.
- WRITE IN PRESENT TENSE…
- Must include at least one QUOTE or SCENE in each argument (section).

You may choose any one of the following, but if you have another thesis in mind, please meet with me to solidify your thesis before you write.

**THE ESSAY PROMPTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

1. **SOCIAL MESSAGE:** Steinbeck has often been considered as a writer who weaves in social messages throughout his novels. **What message or messages did you derive from his literature? Be sure to support your conclusion with evidence from the story that brought you to such a learned lesson.** (incorporate quotes, actions of characters, or any literary device that was utilized to bring about such a message.)

2. **FORESHADOWING:** There are many different types of foreshadowing woven throughout this novel. **Be sure to clearly identify which ones that exist and how specifically they served as a foreshadow and to which event.** (the strongest of foreshadows may almost be entirely similar, be sure to point out such similarities to therefore prove this foreshadow to be connected to the incident)

3. **CONFLICTS in LITERATURE:**

   There are five different types of conflict that exist in the world, and also in literature. Therefore, in this novel, all five conflicts were evident throughout this story of Lennie and George. **Write your essay identifying each of these and where in the story each existed with details from the story to further support your findings.** I suggest you focus on one character and apply all conflicts to him or her.

**comments:**
4. LONELINESS AND DESTRUCTION.
There are several characters that illustrate the theme of loneliness and its destructive powers to the human soul. **Identify these characters and analyze the effects on each thus proving its detriment towards humanity.**

comments:

5. THE POWER OF AN AMERICAN DREAM and THE EFFECTS OF ITS FAILURE OR LOSS ON THE DREAMER:
It is obvious to the reader that the pursuit of the American Dream, no matter how simple or personal for the character, proves to be only that, a “dream.” And yet this dream has both positive and negative effects on the dreamer. **Who, in this novel, do you believe at one time possessed an American Dream, what evidence from the story proves this and what positive and/ or negative effects has it had on this person?**

comments:

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**NOT INTERESTED YET???
CHECK THESE OUT!!!**

ADDITIONAL TOPICS (these must yet be converted into an argument/ thesis):

1. **Sociology:** Social Darwinism: relevance throughout the book
2. **Thematic analysis:** Functional- dysfunctional relationships- types of – (marriage- friendship- ) How Lennie and George Complement Each other. Serve as the other’s character foil.
3. **Research Essay**- Autisms.. society.. evolution of care for such people- analysis of Lennie and how he, although a fictional character, reveals such traits of an Autistic Adult.
4. **History:** Research compare/ contrast - Comparison of The Great Depression to the economic times of the 21st century today..
5. **RESEARCH AND LEARN ESSAY -Psychology:** Apply Erick Erickson’s Stages of Development to Lennie’s actions throughout the story. Classify him according to the appropriate stage.
6. **RESEARCH AND LEARN ESSAY-Diagnose Lennie as:** Autistic, having Asperger’s, or....