

Name: _____ Date: _____

Of Mice and Men & The Central Park Five

Performance Task Writing Prompt

While set in completely different time periods and contexts, *Of Mice and Men* and *The Central Park Five: The Untold Story Behind One of New York City's Most Infamous Crimes* are connected by the idea that language has the power to humanize or dehumanize, affecting how someone is perceived and treated. In small groups, create a podcast episode five to seven minutes in length in which you argue what these two texts reveal about the power of language to construct a narrative about someone's identity and the implications of that. Your group's discussion should address both *Of Mice and Men* and *The Central Park Five*, including textual evidence from both.

Argumentative Writing Rubric

9th Grade English Language Arts

Rubric Scoring Key	Fully meets (4) All criteria present in the writing	Mostly meets (3) Most criteria present, with some misunderstandings	Partially meets (2) Criteria attempted, but significant misunderstandings	Does not meet yet (1) Criteria are not attempted or not enough evidence to rate
--------------------	--	--	--	--

Structure	Rubric Score	Notes
Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses a hook (such as a question, definition, or interesting fact) and provides context or background information • Presents a precise and debatable claim/thesis • Makes a simple distinction between the claim/thesis and an opposing viewpoint 	4 3 2 1	
Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizes ideas into body paragraphs that support the claim/thesis with reasons and evidence • Uses transitions to connect ideas within and between paragraphs 	4 3 2 1	
Conclusion Provides a concluding statement/section that restates the claim/thesis, summarizes the reasons, and briefly addresses the significance of the argument	4 3 2 1	

Development	Rubric Score	Notes
<p>Reasons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provides clear, logical reasons that support the claim/thesis ● Develops each reason with sufficient evidence and examples 	4 3 2 1	
<p>Evidence and Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Selects relevant evidence (i.e., quotations, statistics, and facts) to support each reason ● Introduces evidence with context or signal phrases ● Explains how evidence supports reasons 	4 3 2 1	

Language	Rubric Score	Notes
<p>Style</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintains formal language that fits the task, audience, and purpose ● Uses an objective tone that focuses on evidence rather than personal opinion ● Demonstrates an awareness of how word choice and vocabulary influence tone 	4 3 2 1	
<p>Grammar and Conventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Uses correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation ● Uses proper MLA formatting and citation ● Demonstrates consistent use of grade-level grammar and usage 	4 3 2 1	

Delivery	Rubric Score	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presents ideas clearly, confidently, and logically ● Effectively adapts tone and delivery to the purpose and audience ● Uses effective delivery techniques (volume, pace, pausing, intonation, eye contact, and/or body language) to enhance meaning 	4 3 2 1	