

Sample Response Outline

Topic Sentence	In John Steinbeck's novella, <i>Of Mice and Men</i> , the greatest threat to George and Lennie at the ranch is Lennie himself due to his love of soft things and his extreme strength.
Evidence 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In Chapter 1, at the clearing ○ Lennie has a dead mouse in his pocket because he likes the feel of the soft fur ○ George demands that Lennie hand it over ○ Lennie slowly and reluctantly gives the mouse to George ● Quotation: "Aw, leave me have it, George.' 'Give it here!' Lennie's closed hand slowly obeyed" (Steinbeck 5–6).
Analysis of Evidence 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Zoom In: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "aw:" reveals Lennie's sadness ○ "leave:" likely unfamiliar to readers, so define it as "let" ○ "slowly obey:" reveals Lennie does not want to listen to George right away ○ George's dialogue is in italics, highlights his anger ● Zoom Out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overly focused on soft things: Lennie is sad when he can't have the mouse, & tries to keep it, despite consequences ○ Reluctant to listen: Even when George is yelling, "slow to obey" ○ Combination of focus on soft things with hesitation to obey makes him a threat
Evidence 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 2 ○ George and Lennie arrive at the ranch near Soledad & are interviewed by the boss ○ Boss is suspicious that Lennie isn't answering questions ○ George loudly tells the boss why Lennie is a valuable farmhand ● Quotation: "George broke in loudly, 'Oh! I ain't saying he's bright. He ain't, But I say he's a God damn good worker. He can put up a four hundred pound bale'" (22).
Analysis of Evidence 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Zoom In: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diction: bale means hay bale ○ Diction: 400 lbs reveals that Lennie has super-human strength. A typical person can lift about 50 lbs ● Zoom Out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lennie is a threat: he could break something or hurt someone accidentally
Last Sentence	All in all, Lennie's love of soft items alone would not likely put George and Lennie at much of a higher risk; however, in combination with Lennie's extreme strength, the two traveling companions are at a real risk at the ranch.