

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Of Mice and Men & The Central Park Five*

## Writing Prompt

Write a multi-paragraph literary analysis essay that makes an argument for one of three prompts:

- Has Steinbeck written Lennie as a dynamic character?
- Who is the most powerful character in this text, and who is the least powerful?
- What does this text suggest about loneliness and how it makes people behave?

## 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
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Structure	Rubric Score	Notes
<b>Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses a hook (such as a question, definition, or interesting fact) and provides context or background information</li> <li>• Presents a precise and debatable claim/thesis</li> <li>• Makes a simple distinction between the claim/thesis and an opposing viewpoint</li> </ul>	4 3 2 1	
<b>Organization</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizes ideas into body paragraphs that support the claim/thesis with reasons and evidence</li> <li>• Uses transitions to connect ideas within and between paragraphs</li> </ul>	4 3 2 1	
<b>Conclusion</b> 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><b>Reasons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provides clear, logical reasons that support the claim/thesis</li> <li>● Develops each reason with sufficient evidence and examples</li> </ul>	4 3 2 1	
<p><b>Evidence and Explanation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Selects relevant evidence (i.e., quotations, statistics, and facts) to support each reason</li> <li>● Introduces evidence with context or signal phrases</li> <li>● Explains how evidence supports reasons</li> </ul>	4 3 2 1	

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