

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

*Of Mice and Men & The Central Park Five*

## Writing Prompt

After meeting most of the people on the ranch, Lennie "cried out suddenly, 'I don't like this place, George. This ain't no good place. I wanna get outta here'" (Steinbeck 32). Which person at the ranch poses the greatest threat to George and Lennie? Write a one-paragraph literary analysis that argues for who is the greatest threat, and provide specific evidence from Chapters 1 and/or 2 to support your reasoning.

## 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	