

In-Class Essay Prompt and Rubric

Prompt/Question. Students are to select *one* prompt:

- A. Discuss Steinbeck’s use of foreshadowing with Candy’s dog. Does he effectively justify Lennie’s fate at the hand of George?
- B. What is Steinbeck’s message regarding isolation and companionship? Use at least 3 characters to prove your point.
- C. Discuss George as a heroic character. In what ways is he the hero of the novel?
- D. What is Steinbeck’s message regarding dreams? Use at least 3 characters to prove your point.
- E. Discuss Slim’s role in the novel. In what ways is he proven to be a God-like character?
- F. Explain the cyclical nature of Steinbeck’s writing. Cite several examples of cyclical patterns in characters/events/motifs.
- G. Discuss the role of Curley’s wife in the novel. Does Steinbeck successfully invoke sympathy for this character?
- H. Determine whether Lennie is a fully innocent character or one who is capable of discernment and manipulation. Should he be held accountable for his actions?

<p>Question: Did you answer all parts of the prompt? Is your thesis clear? Does the thesis state your arguable, defensible position? Do your topic sentences relate to the thesis statement?</p>	<p>YES = 3</p> <p>ALMOST = 2</p> <p>UNCLEAR = 1</p>	<p>SCORE</p>
<p>Organization: Is thesis fully developed through your claims and analysis? Do you follow the format instructed for writing the introduction, body, and conclusion paragraphs? Do you avoid summarizing but present a clear analysis/argument? Does each body paragraph have clear topic and concluding sentences?</p>	<p>DEVELOPED = 3</p> <p>ADEQUATE = 2</p> <p>WEAK/UNDEVELOPED = 1</p>	
<p>Examples: You must have 2-3 solid examples and at least one quote. Are your examples relevant to your thesis? Have you introduced all quotations (XYZ)? Is each quotation fully analyzed and connected to the thesis?</p>	<p>RELEVANT = 3</p> <p>ADEQUATE = 2</p> <p>FEW/IRRELEVANT= 1</p>	
<p>Grammar/Voice: Do you have significant errors in grammar/spelling? Have you used only third person? Are all sentences clear and concise? Have you avoided contractions and abbreviations?</p>	<p>NONE = 0</p> <p>FEW = -1</p> <p>MANY = -2</p>	
<p>TOTAL POINTS</p>		

Score Conversion (50 points)

- 9 = 50 (rare)
- 8 = 48 (excellent)
- 7 = 46 (great)
- 6 = 43 (good)
- 5 = 39 (getting there)
- 4 = 36 (close)
- 3 = 32 (misunderstands prompt/incomplete thoughts)
- 2 = 30 (simplistic/vague)
- 1 = 25 (undeveloped/poorly written/does not address prompt)