

Of Mice and Men Essay Topics

Chose one of the two following prompts and write an analytical essay in Schaffer format:

1. We've examined closely the connection of Lennie and Candy's dog. Both become a burden to their caretakers and the other around them and both are killed in similar manners. The events surrounding Candy's dog not only foreshadow the events surrounding Lennie but allow Steinbeck to comment on the relationship between the human and animal worlds. What message is Steinbeck conveying to the reader about this relationship and how do the events surrounding Candy's dog and Lennie allow him to do this?

Introduce your topic and state your thesis

Explain the similarity in the burden each becomes

Explain the similarity in the deaths of each

Review main points and restate the ideas of your thesis

2. *Of Mice and Men* paints an interesting picture of the thoughts and dreams of Americans during the Great Depression. For example, George and Lennie's dream of owning their own ranch and living "off the fatta the land." As readers, however, we know that the dream will never come true. Several of the other characters also share their dreams and the reader knows that these too are highly unlikely. What message does Steinbeck convey to the reader about the American dream and how does he go about presenting this information through his characters?

Introduce your topic and state your thesis

Explain the dream of one character

Explain the dream of a second character

Review main points and restate the ideas of your thesis

In addition to the above information, your paper must:

- Be a minimum of 800 words
- Mention the title and author clearly in the thesis statement
- Use clear topic and concluding sentences to guide the reader through the argument
- Use formal language (no "I" or "you," no contractions, no abbreviations, no slang)
- Use an elevated vocabulary that reflects your intelligence and insight you have into the novel
- Use at least two quotations from the text as evidence in each body paragraph
- Be typed and in proper MLA format
- Include a Works Cited page also in MLA format