

English 11
Harvest Gypsies
Writing Assignment

The two articles from John Steinbeck's *Harvest Gypsies* give a very informative and graphic description of what life was like for those who migrated from the Midwest to the West Coast. It certainly gives a unique historical perspective of what life was like in a certain part of the country during The Great Depression. It also creates an interesting parallel to some modern-day issues.

In the following writing assignment, I'd like you to talk a little bit about the articles and a lot about what you think. This will be structured into a five-paragraph essay. The following is an outline to follow as you begin to write:

Introduction:

- Attention-getting opener. This may be a description from either article or even a quote. Or it can simply be something eye-popping to get the grab the reader's attention.
- Create two or three sentences summarizing the first article. In general, what was it about? Maybe include one thing you thought was really important.
- Create two or three sentences summarizing the second article. In general, what was it about? Include what thing that blew you away.
- Thesis statement - State an opinion you created after reading these articles.

First Body Paragraph:

- Create an opening sentence that sets the tone for the rest of the paragraph.
- Devote your writing in this paragraph to your thoughts about what people endured during the western migration and the living conditions of the squatters' camps.
- Include at least two examples from the articles to emphasize your thoughts.
- Create a transition statement that leads to the next paragraph (relating the articles to modern-day events)

Second Body Paragraph:

- Create an opening sentence that sets the tone for the rest of the paragraph.
- This paragraph should concentrate on how the events discussed in the two articles are *similar* to immigration issues of today. It's going to be tempting to discuss differences here, but don't. Wait until the next paragraph, please.
- Include specific examples from the article and from current events to support you thoughts.
- Create a transition statement that leads to the next paragraph (differences between the articles and modern-day events)

Third Body Paragraph:

- Create an opening sentence that sets the tone for the rest of the paragraph.
- Concentrate on the differences between the events discussed in the two articles and current immigration issues of today.
- Include specific examples from the article and from current events to support you thoughts.

Conclusion:

- Reword your thesis statement from your introduction paragraph.
- Create two sentences discussing whether or not events from the articles have or could happen again.
- Create a concluding thought. It could be related to the words from your opening statement or it can be another observation or quote from the articles.