

## English 9 Quarter 2 Persuasive Essay

Prompt: Now that you have read *Of Mice and Men*, choose ONE of the two prompts below to write your essay:

1. According to your definition of friendship, did George and Lennie have a true friendship? Give 2-3 logical reasons and provide SPECIFIC evidence from the story to support your claim/thesis statement.

OR

2. George's execution of Lennie was justifiable OR George' execution of Lennie was NOT justifiable. Pick one position. Give 2-3 logical reasons and provide SPECIFIC evidence from the story to support your claim/thesis.

Steps to complete the essay:

1. Choose one of the prompts above.
2. Decide which "side" you will take.
3. Brainstorm 2-3 reasons that support your position.
4. For each reason, provide 1-2 SPECIFIC examples from the story to support each reason.

Pick the outline below that matches your prompt and follow it:

Friendship prompt:

Par. 1: Hook about friendship (a quote, etc.) Then explain what your definition of true friendship is.

Par. 2: Begin this paragraph: The idea of friendship appears in John Steinbeck's book, *Of Mice and Men* (italicize the book title). Explain a little about George and Lennie's friendship (without giving away points or examples you will use later in the essay). Then finally GIVE YOUR CLAIM/THESIS.

Par. 3:

TOPIC SENTENCE: Give the first reason to support the claim/ thesis. One reason George and Lennie's friendship is/is not considered "true" is \_\_\_\_\_.

EXAMPLE: Give a specific example from the book to illustrate the reason in the topic sentence (include page numbers if available).

EXPLAIN: Discuss what is really happening in the example above. HOW/WHY does the example prove that they do/do not have a true friendship? (This part will be a few sentences long).

CONCLUDING SENTENCE: Tie back to the topic sentence to end the paragraph.

Par. 4

Transition TOPIC SENTENCE: Give the second reason to support the claim/thesis.

EXAMPLE: For example, (give a detailed example from the book (with page number if available).)

EXPLAIN: What is really going on in the example to support the first reason. Discuss how/why this example proves that they do/do not have a true friendship.

CONCLUDING SENTENCE: Tie back to the TOPIC SENTENCE to end the paragraph.

Par. 5 (Follow the same steps for Pars. 3 and 4 if you have a third reason).

## Par. 5 (or 6) CONCLUSION

Transition to wrap up the paper. Restate claim/thesis.

Summarize (1-2 sentences) main reasons.

End with a thoughtful statement about true or untrue friendship (takes 3-4 sentences).

## EXECUTION PROMPT OUTLINE:

### Par. 1: INTRODUCTION

Hook: (a quote, startling statement, scenario (Imagine...))

Background sentences: The idea of execution appears at the end of John Steinbeck's novel, *Of Mice and Men*. Give a general summary of the story (brief--2-3 sentences).

CLAIM/THESIS: State the position you took on the prompt (don't use I or me).

### Par. 2

TOPIC SENTENCE: Give the first point/reason to support the claim/thesis.

EXAMPLE: Give a specific example from the story to illustrate the point/reason (give page number if available).

EXPLAIN: Discuss what is really going on in the example--how/why does it prove the first point/reason is true.

CONCLUDING SENTENCE: Tie back to the topic sentence to end the paragraph.

### Par. 3 Second point/reason

Transition

Follow outline for Par. 2.

### Par. 4 Third point/reason

Follow outline for Par. 2

### Conclusion

Transition to signal the end of the essay restate claim/thesis

Review points/reasons (brief 1-2 sentences).

End with a thought-provoking statement about the idea of execution in our world today (the idea must tie relate to the position you took in the essay without mentioning OMAM).