Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Of Mice and Men***

**Persuasive Essay** **Prompt and Guidelines**

**Essay Prompt:**

At the end of the novel *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, George makes the decision to kill his friend Lennie after Lennie kills Curley’s wife. There is some debate as to whether George’s actions were moral and justified. Some people agree that what George did was moral because he was only saving Lennie from more pain and hurting himself or others. Others say that George’s actions were not moral because killing another person is wrong no matter what and George had other options. **In your opinion, did George make the right moral decision in killing Lennie?**

Compose a persuasive essay addressing this prompt. You must use at least **three** **(3)** pieces of evidence from the novel.

**Essay MUST contain the following:**

* 3 supporting quotes (evidence) from the novel Of Mice and Men
* 3-4 pages in length; Typed in Google Docs
* Written in MLA format (proper header, in text citation and Work Cited) *See back*

**Timeline for project:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Location** | **Objective** |
| Friday 5/6 | In class  | Introduce Persuasive Prompt Brainstorm Ideas for Essay  |
| Monday 5/9 | Lab or MC | Rough Draft Work – Google Docs  |
| Tuesday 5/10  | Lab or MC | Rough Draft Work – Google Docs |
| Wednesday 5/11 (PLC Day)  | Lab or MC | Rough Draft Work – Google Docs |
| Friday 5/13 | n/a | Final Draft Shared in Google Docs **by MIDNIGHT**  |

**What about MLA format?**

Remember all major MLA format and guidelines.

Include the following:

* Proper format for your essay: MLA Header (name, teacher, class, date), Original title, 12 pt font (TNR, Georgia, Arial, Calibri ONLY), double spaced
* Whenever you use a primary or secondary source, whether you are quoting or paraphrasing, you will make parenthetical citations in the MLA format [Ex. (Smith 67).]
* Your Works Cited list will be the last page of your essay and is listed in Alphabetical Order. This is easy, since you are only using one source = the novel itself.

Note, however, the following minor things about MLA format:

* Titles of books, plays, or works published singularly (not anthologized) should be italicized unless it is a handwritten document, in which case underlining is acceptable. (Ex. *Hamlet*, *Great Expectations*)
* Titles of poems, short stories, or works published in an anthology will have quotation marks around them. (Ex. "Ode on a Nightingale," "The Cask of Amontillado")
* All pages in your essay should have your last name the page number in the top right hand corner. (Ex. Jones 12)
* Don't leave a quote or paraphrase by itself - **you must introduce it, explain it, and show how it relates to your thesis.**
* Block format all quotations of more than four lines.

**Citation Reminders:**

In MLA style, referring to the works of others in your text is done by using what is known as **parenthetical or in-text citation**. This method involves placing relevant source information in parentheses after a quote or a paraphrase.

In Text Citation:

* Utilize at least **THREE QUOTES** in your essay:
	1. **TWO quotes** in your support paragraph and
	2. **ONE quote** in your counterargument paragraph

**Example:**

“I got you to look after me, and you got me to look after you, and that's why” (Steinbeck 42).

Works Cited: **Everyone will have the SAME Works Cited page** ☺ Below is the only source that needs to be typed on your WC page.

Steinbeck, John. *Of Mice and Men*. New York, NY: Penguin Books, 1994. Print.