

Of Mice and Men: Literary Analysis

Directions: Using a five paragraph essay, write a literary analysis of one of the major themes in the novel. Make sure you support your analysis with quotes and examples from the book. If you follow the outline below, you will do well on your paper. This is EXACTLY what I am looking for in a well-constructed five paragraph literary analysis.

I. Introductory Paragraph

A. **Hook** (Why should the reader continue reading this paper?) Possibilities are:

1. rhetorical question
2. relevant quote from an outside source
3. relevant quote from the novel
4. fact or statistic
5. shocking or amusing generalization

*Whichever method you decide to use, make sure the hook is relevant to the topic of your paper. The hook should relate to the topic of your paper.

B. **Necessary Information**

1. Author's full name (John Steinbeck)
2. Title of the story (*Of Mice and Men*)
3. Brief plot summary

C. **Thesis**

*Your thesis should consist of a topic and limiting ideas. It should never be a question. The thesis for a literary analysis paper should make it clear which theme you are going to analyze. Do not use the words "I" or "you".

II. Second, Third, and Fourth Paragraphs (Body Paragraphs)

A. **Topic Sentence:** a topic sentence has a topic and a focus, or limiting idea. Your topic is your chosen theme. Your limiting idea(s) are how strongly it was supported throughout the novel.

- B. **Quote** that proves the topic sentence. Quotation marks are present and the author's last name and page number are in parentheses. Example: "Slim said, 'You hadda, George'" (Steinbeck 107).
- C. **Explanation** of the quote and why/ how it supports the topic sentence.
- D. Any further mention of examples in the book that are necessary to explain the topic.
- E. **Transition** to the next thought or paragraph

*A paragraph should be a *minimum* of five sentences, not including the quote.

III. Concluding Paragraph

- A. Restate/reword your **thesis**
- B. **Tie it all together.** This is not a summary. You may remind your reader how you have analyzed the theme.
- C. **Clincher:** Try to end your paper with a short sentence that reinforces your analysis. This is like the hook, and it can relate back to your hook. Why is this important to your reader? What should your reader take away from your analysis? Is there a "Call-to-Action"?

Literary Analysis In-Class Work Days: _____

Literary Analysis due date: _____

*Your analysis must be typed (12 pt. Times New Roman, double spaced, etc. Must use MLA format). Your analysis must be printed BEFORE class. No exceptions.

*Please bring your CHARGED laptop with you to class every day. You will be earning daily "agency" points by coming to class prepared, having your materials, working hard, not using your cell phone, not chatting with others, etc.