

***Of Mice and Men* Essay Topics**

Read through the following essay topics carefully. Choose ONE of the topics to examine and write a literary essay about. Once you have chosen your topic and completed your brainstorming, write your thesis and show Ms. Searle BEFORE you begin writing anything.

ESSAY PROMPTS:

- 1. What is the importance of dreams in the novel *Of Mice and Men*? What role do they play in people's lives? How do the characters' dreams affect them? Are they achievable?**

- 2. Think about the characters in the novel *Of Mice and Men* and the power that they have. What different kinds of power do different characters have? Where does it come from? What do they do with it? How does it help them or hurt them?**

- 3. How does Steinbeck portray friendship in the novel *Of Mice and Men*? How does its presence or absence affect different characters? What does it require of people and what does it offer in return? Are any of the characters true friends to others?**

- 4. Analyze the examples of loneliness, the efforts of the characters in search of companionship, and their varying degrees of success. What do you think John Steinbeck is saying about loneliness and isolation?**

- 5. Look at the various examples of discrimination in *Of Mice and Men*. How does discrimination affect different characters? How do characters respond to discrimination, and how does it affect their lives, and the outcome of the story?**