Name/Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Of Mice and Men* Essay Prompt Options

Select one of the following prompts for your character analysis essay. Notice for prompts 2,3,4 there is also 2a,3a,4a; these are meant as a supplement to prompts 2,3,4.

**1. Discrimination**: 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?

**2. Friendship.** How does Steinbeck portray friendship in Of Mice and Men? How does its presence or absence affect different characters, in their actions and in their relationships? What does it require of people, and what does it offer them in return?

**2a.** Show how John Steinbeck explores the complex relationship between George and Lennie. You should write about: What keeps them together, and the difficulties they each have. How they are different from other people on the farm.

**3. Loneliness.** Many of the characters in Of Mice and Men seem lonely. Why are various characters lonely, and how does it affect them?

**3a.** Many characters in Steinbeck’s novel *Of Mice and Men* are plagued by loneliness and alienation and are searching for friendship and acceptance. Write a response that explains how three of the characters are plagued by loneliness and alienation and are searching for friendship and acceptance.

**4.** Discuss the use of static and dynamic characters in the novel. Include their importance in the book.

**4a.** Discuss the use of animal terms to describe Lennie. Use specific examples and discuss the effects of these descriptions.

**Essay Checklist**

\_\_\_\_\_ Attach this sheet to the front of your essay.

\_\_\_\_\_ Thesis statement—you must have a thesis statement somewhere in the first paragraph of your essay. Reminder: a thesis is a statement that tells the reader what your essay will be about (do NOT write the words, “this essay will be about”).

\_\_\_\_\_ Strong evidence to support your inferences/conclusions/opinions about the characters. You MUST use at least one piece of evidence per body paragraph (you do not have to use evidence in the intro and conclusions).

\_\_\_\_\_ Your evidence must include quotation marks, author, and page number.

\_\_\_\_\_ At least one example of sentence pattern 1, and your choice of another sentence pattern you have learned (2 sentences minimum in the form of a sentence pattern). Highlight or underline these sentences in your rough draft.

\_\_\_\_\_ Indent each new paragraph and double space your essay (if hand written, make sure you skip lines).

\_\_\_\_\_ Capitalize the first letter in every sentence as well as proper nouns.

No specific length for this essay, make sure you have an introductory paragraph that includes a thesis statement and addresses the prompt; you should also have a strong conclusion that recaps your important points. The amount of body paragraphs depends on you and what you want to say in this essay; just make sure you have completely answered the prompt and that you are using evidence to support your analysis. You will most likely need more than 4 paragraphs for a successful essay.