

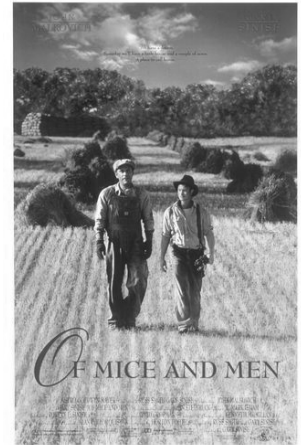
Of Mice and Men

- Writing a Position Paper -

For this assignment, you are going to write a position paper on one of the issues in the story of “Of Mice and Men”.

A position paper is also called a Point of View paper, where you present one side of an arguable opinion about an issue. The goal of a position paper is to convince the audience that your opinion is valid and defensible. It is very important to ensure that you are addressing all sides of the issue and presenting it in a manner that is easy for your audience to understand.

Your job is to take one side of the argument and persuade your audience that you have well-founded knowledge of the topic being presented. It is important to support your argument with evidence to ensure the validity of your claims, as well as to squash the counterclaims to show that you are well informed about both sides.



Choices: - select **ONE** of the following:

1. George's final act: murder or mercy?
2. Curley's wife: villain or victim?
3. The “dream”: hopeful future or hopeless fantasy?
4. George and Lennie: an equal relationship?

Get ready to write:

Opening Paragraph:

- Hooks us in
- Gives the context (including the author's name and title of the story)
- States the overlying questions (the choice that you chose)
- Leads your reader into the body of the paper

Middle Paragraphs:

- Gives BOTH SIDES of the argument
- Links with transitional phrases
- Includes cited contextual evidence
- 3 paragraphs

PRO	CON

Closing Paragraph:

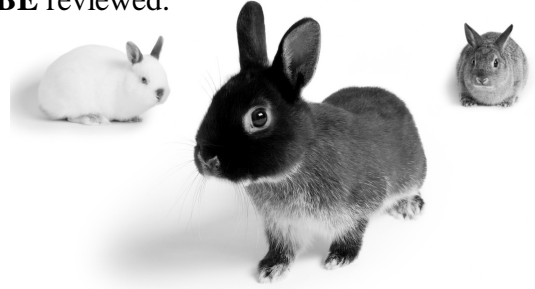
- Gives your conclusion & restates your position
- Concludes with emphasis

Position Paper criteria - 35 marks

Before you submit your writing, the criteria below **MUST BE** reviewed.

Your assignment **MUST HAVE** the following:

- ___ Outline
- ___ Rough Draft
- ___ Good Copy:
 - double spaced
 - Times New Roman
 - 12 pt font



Your assignment **MUST FOLLOW** the following criteria. Read through your essay and check the criteria guidelines.

Content:

Paragraph #1: Introduction

- ___ A. Title is underlined and the author of the story is given
- ___ B. The topic is introduced using a “hook” statement/sentence
- ___ C. Thesis (the main point/your view on the issue) is stated

Paragraph #2: Views on the issue

- ___ A. Background information is provided
- ___ B. Both side of the argument are presented

Paragraph #3: Counter Argument

- ___ A. The counterclaims are summarized
- ___ B. Supporting information for counterclaims is provided
- ___ C. The counterclaims are refuted (suppressed, disproven)

Paragraph #4: Your Argument

- ___ A. Point #1 of your claim
 - ___ i. Gives your opinion
 - ___ ii. Provides support (textual evidence #1)
- ___ B. Point #2 of your claim
 - ___ i. Gives your opinion
 - ___ ii. Provides support (textual evidence #2)
- ___ C. Point #3 of your claim
 - ___ i. Gives your opinion
 - ___ ii. Provides support (textual evidence #3)

Paragraph #5: Conclusion

- ___ A. Restates your argument
- ___ B. Sums it all up with a closing statement
- ___ C. Thesis is proven

Style:

- ___ Tone is clear and persuasive, use of effective language to communicate message
- ___ Transitions between paragraphs are used to make the writing flow
- ___ Diction is formal
- ___ All grammatical and spelling errors have been corrected

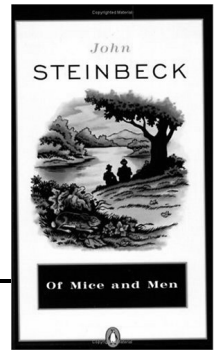
Rate yourself. What grade would you give this paper? Provide an explanation.

___/35 Because _____

Name: _____

Of Mice and Men – Position Paper Outline

Topic: _____



Introduction:

Hook: _____

Thesis: _____

Supporting Ideas: _____

Concluding Sentence: _____

Body Paragraph: Views on Issues

Topic Sentence: _____

Supporting Facts: _____

Concluding Sentence: _____

Body Paragraph: Argument Against

Topic Sentence: _____

Supporting Facts: _____

Concluding Sentence: _____

Body Paragraph: Your Argument

Topic Sentence: _____

Supporting Facts: _____

Concluding Sentence: _____

Conclusion:

Topic Sentence: _____

Sum-up main points:

Concluding Sentence:
