

## WRITING ASSIGNMENT - *Of Mice and Men*

### PROMPT

Now that you have completed reading the novelette, you know that George kills Lennie. This act is presented as the humane thing to do for Lennie, which it very well could have been. Playing Devil's Advocate, though, one could ask if, indeed, this was the correct decision. If Lennie had been taken to trial, perhaps he would have been excused on grounds of lack of mental competence and may have been given a better life than he had had with George.

In this writing assignment, we're putting George on trial for murdering Lennie. You are to become either the attorney for George's defense or the prosecuting attorney. Your assignment is to write your closing arguments to the jury. (Closing arguments are a lawyers final summary of his case and his best efforts at persuading the jury to his side.)

### PREWRITING

To begin, decide which side you want to take--George's defense or the prosecution. On a piece of paper, jot down the main points, the facts which will support your case. Decide which points are your strongest and which of the arguments you will make are weaker. Organize your points from weakest to strongest and jot down anything you can think of which will support or explain your points.

### DRAFTING

Begin with an introductory paragraph in which you introduce the jury to your side of the case. Follow that with one paragraph for each of the main points you have to support your case. Fill in each paragraph with examples and facts which support your main point. Then, write a paragraph in which you make your final closing statements.

### PROMPT

When you finish your rough draft, ask a student who sits near you to read it. After reading your rough draft, he/she should tell you what he/she liked best about your work, which parts were difficult to understand, and ways in which your work could be improved. Reread your paper considering your critic's comments and make the corrections you think are necessary.

### PROOFREADING

Do a final proofreading of your paper double-checking your grammar, spelling, organization, and the clarity of your ideas.

DUE DATE: Monday, 5/23