English I

***Of Mice and Men*: In-Class Essay**

**Trace George’s Rite of Passage in *Of Mice and Men.***

* You will begin with an introduction about George’s relationship with Lennie and how it causes George to experience a rite of passage.
* You will then trace three of the four steps: innocence, journey with obstacles, and epiphany.
* The novel ends before George can put his reflection into words, so you will conclude your essay

**You will begin work on this essay today and complete it by the end of class Wednesday, 11/30.** We will spend three days in the computer lab, and you will also have homework related to the essay.

1. Prewriting: Begin by filling out the possibilities. Consider several examples for each step, especially for the Innocence and Journey/Obstacle steps.
2. Collect your evidence: find short, effective quotations for each step. If you find yourself wanting to quote a long speech or paragraph, identify the most important part and quote only that. Your quotations should not be more than two or three lines. You will use one piece of evidence in each paragraph.
3. Draft your body paragraphs: type your evidence into your document. Be sure you copied the quotation exactly as it appears in the book. Cite it with the author’s name and page number, for example, (Steinbeck 47).

Finish Steps 1 and 2 and begin step 3 in class Monday. If you are not finished gathering evidence by the end of class, finish it for homework.

1. Draft your introduction: introduce the novel (author/title) and the main characters. Describe their relationship. End the paragraph with your thesis about George’s development over the course of the novel.
2. Draft your conclusion: Begin with a summative statement about how George changes as a result of the experiences you’ve discussed. Tie the steps of George’s rite of passage together. End with a statement that connects George’s development or change to a bigger idea in the novel.

Finish drafting your essay Tuesday in class. Print what you have and edit it (on the printout) at home.

1. On Wednesday in class, revise your essay. Refer to the “Standards” sheet and the editing checklist for the assignment.
2. Turn in your prewriting, rough draft, editing checklist and rubric with your final draft.

Prewriting Sheet for Essay

Step 1: Innocence: Define the ways in which George is innocent or in a childlike state.

George is innocent because in the end of the story he realizes that Lennie has to die because Lennie can’t live without causing trouble. In the beginning of the story George thought that since Lenne and he were together they could accomplish more because most men work alone and don’t travel together. Later though all Lennie does is cause trouble and George can’t control what he does.

Write page numbers and quote the novel for examples of George’s innocence:

page 14: George is saying….. “Guys like us, that work on ranches, are the loneliest guys in the world. They got no family. They don’t belong no place.” . . . Lennie broke in. “*But not us! An’ why? Because . . . because I got you to look after me, and you got me to look after you, and that’s why*”

page 60: George stood up “We’ll do her,” he said. “We’ll fix up that little old place an’ we’ll go live there.

Which example is best? What does it show about George’s innocence? The second example shows more about George’s innocence because he actually thinks they have a chance to get the land.

Step 2: Journey with Obstacles: Define the journey George takes with Lennie and the obstacles he faces. An obstacle that George takes with Lennie is when they’re in Weed and Lennie is accused of assaulting a woman. Lennie and George had to hide all night in a hole and then escape at night.

Write page numbers and quote the novel for examples of George’s journey with obstacles:

page \_\_\_:

page \_\_\_:

Which piece of evidence is best? What does it show about George’s journey?

Step 3: Epiphany: Identify the **moment** of George’s epiphany. You might have more than one idea, and then narrow your ideas to one.

Write page numbers and quote the novel for examples of George’s epiphany:

page \_\_\_:

page \_\_\_:

Which piece of evidence is best? What does it show about George’s epiphany?