Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hour:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Of Mice and Men* Argumentative Essay Rubric**

You will write a 5-paragraph argumentative essay for the following question: Was George justified in killing Lennie? You must select a position on this issue (do not try and argue both sides!). Each body paragraph should contain at least two quotes and commentary to support your point. One body paragraph must include a counter-argument and a refutation.

**Effective Introduction \_\_\_\_\_\_/10**

* Attention-grabbing introduction
* Clear explanation of the book and the essay topic
* Well developed/Not too short
* Thesis statement is the last sentence in the paragraph that makes a clear, strong argument about whether you believe George was justified in killing Lennie
* All sentences flow smoothly

**Body Paragraph #1 \_\_\_\_\_\_/13**

* Topic Sentence contains a strong argument relating to thesis
* At least 2 direct quotes from *Of Mice and Men* and they are correctly embedded into the text. No quote dropping!
* At least 4 sentences of commentary (two for each quote) that successfully adds justification and explanation to your topic sentence and thesis
* All details and examples stay on track and relate back to your thesis/topic sentence
* Successfully uses transitions for structure/flow and introduce your quotes.
* End with a concluding sentence that wraps up the main idea of the overall paragraph

**Body Paragraph #2 \_\_\_\_\_\_/13**

* Topic Sentence contains a strong argument relating to thesis
* At least 2 direct quotes from *Of Mice and Men* and they are correctly embedded into the text. No quote dropping!
* At least 4 sentences of commentary (two for each quote) that successfully adds justification and explanation to your topic sentence and thesis
* All details and examples stay on track and relate back to your thesis/topic sentence
* Successfully uses transitions for structure/flow and introduce your quotes.
* End with a concluding sentence that wraps up the main idea of the overall paragraph

**Body Paragraph #3 (Counterargument/Refutation) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/ 13**

* Topic Sentence contains a strong argument relating to thesis
* One Counterargument with direct quote that clearly relates to the topic sentence but goes against it with specific evidence/reasoning
* One commentary that explains the quote and the reason why the other position would use it as support.
* Two refutation direct quotes that reinforce your position and also discredit the counterargument presented.
* At least 4 sentences of commentary (two for each refutation quote) that successfully adds justification and explanation to your topic sentence and thesis
* All details and examples stay on track and relate back to your thesis/topic sentence
* Successfully uses transitions for structure/flow and introduce your quotes.
* End with a concluding sentence that wraps up the main idea of the overall paragraph

**Effective Conclusion \_\_\_\_\_/10**

* Restatement of thesis- 1st sentence, reworded, makes a strong, clear argument
* Recaps main points of the overall essay
* Wraps up the paper/leaves reader with something to think about

**Mechanics \_\_\_\_\_/ 10**

* No run-ons, fragments, comma splices, contractions
* Correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation
* Appropriate word choice/avoid personal pronouns
* Avoids formal paper no-no’s, no first or second person (I or you)
* Consistent tense

**MLA Format/Writing Process \_\_\_\_\_\_/6**

* Creative Title
* Typed, doubled-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-pt font, 1 inch margins, indented paragraphs, correct heading and header

**Total Score:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/75**

**Other grades for the writing process:**

**Brainstorm Graphic Organizer 5pts**

**Completed Outline (section done on time, every day for class) 30 pts**

**Peer Edit of another student’s paper/outline 10 pts**

**Participation grade during work time 8 pts**

**Peer Edit by parent/guardian/older sibling 8 pts extra credit on**

**final paper**