

Of Mice and Men: Persuasive Paper

Write a four paragraph persuasive paper. At the end of the novel, George shoots Lennie in the back of the head. George feels he has no alternative. If he doesn't kill him, Carlson or Curley might. And if they don't kill him, he definitely will go to jail for killing Curley's wife.

In this paper, write whether or not George should have killed Lennie. Remember, you need to provide reasons and evidence. In the second body paragraph, write whether or not mercy killing or capital punishment is good. Again, make sure you provide reason. Why should mercy killing be allowed? Why is it good? How does the novel make this clear? OR Why is mercy killing bad? And why shouldn't it be allowed? And how does the novel make *this* clear?

Grading: paper will be graded based on my rubric, which makes content out of 6 points and grammar and usage out of 4 points. Paper must be typed and have proper formatting, which includes double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, proper heading, 1 inch margins, and no extra line spacing. Be sure to avoid all use of the first person and second person pronouns (I, me, my, you, your, etc.)

Paragraph 1 (Introduction):

Attention getter – get the reader's attention.

- rhetorical question
- relevant quote from an outside source
- relevant quote from the story
- fact or statistic
- description of initial response to the work
- shocking or amusing generalization.

Whichever method you decide to use, make sure the attention-getter is relevant to the topic of your paper. The attention-getter should relate to the topic of your paper.

Necessary information

- author's full name – John Steinbeck
- Title of story – *Of Mice and Men*
- Brief plot summary

Thesis:

Your thesis should consist of a topic and limiting ideas. It should never be a question. The thesis for a persuasive paper should make it clear which side of the controversy you are on.

Example: The novel makes it clear that capital punishment is a bad idea and should not be practiced.

Paragraph 2 – body

- **Topic sentence:** a topic sentence has a topic and a focus, or a limiting idea. Your topic is the killing of Lennie. And your limiting idea is whether it was right or wrong.
- **Support:** the rest of the paragraph should support your stance.

Paragraph 3 – body

- **Topic sentence:** Your topic should be mercy killing or capital punishment. Your limiting idea is whether it is right or wrong.
- **Support:** the rest of the paragraph should support your stance using reasons, examples, and so forth.

Paragraph 4 – conclusion

- **Restate,** or reword, your thesis.
- Tie it all together. This is not a summery. You may need to in two sentences remind your reader how you have shown that they should agree with you.
- **Clincher:** try to end your paper with a short sentence that reinforces your argument. This is like the attention-getter. And it can relate back to your attention-getter.

Notes: