We have recently read John Steinbeck’s, *Of Mice and Men*, which the author called “a study of the dreams and pleasures of everyone in the world.” At the completion of the novel, we examined various aspects including the themes which run though it, the significance of the characters’ names, and Steinbeck’s use of symbolism, foreshadowing, and imagery.

The purpose of your literary research paper is to **formulate a thesis** based on your knowledge and opinion of some aspect of the novel and to then defend it using primary sources (the novel) and at least two secondary sources (literary criticism). Your paper must include citations from all sources; these citations are to be used to support your thesis.

Your research paper is to be 2-3 pages in length (double spaced). Use a font size of 12 and Times New Roman print. A works cited page must appear at the end of your paper and is to be done on a separate sheet. All papers must be typed. The research paper must be handed in, enclosed in a binder. The binder will have all of the components of the research paper (assignment sheet, thesis statement, research articles, note cards, works-cited page, rough-draft and final paper). This binder will be graded. If the student is missing any component, points will be deducted.

We will spend 3-4 periods together in the library to help you find appropriate sources to support your thesis. Creating a thesis, the proper format for the citations, and the works cited page will be explained thoroughly in class.
Research Assignment Contract Explanation

In this research assignment, you will review what you have learned last year about writing a research paper: how to research a topic, take notes on cards, and write a works cited page, an outline, a rough draft, and a final paper. In your senior year, if you do not write a research paper correctly, you will not graduate. Learning how to do this correctly is an imperative part of your high school learning experience.

1. You are responsible for writing a 2-3 page research paper on *Of Mice and Men*. This paper must have a works cited page, which is not included in the minimum number of pages.
2. Some work will be done in class and in the library; however, any work you are unable to finish during class time must be completed at home.
3. On the dates designated, you are responsible for bringing your sources and note cards to complete work in class.
4. You must have a minimum of four (4) sources, only one of which may be an online/database source. The other sources may include books, periodicals/articles, or, if possible, an encyclopedia.
5. **You must hand in the assignments in order. You will not be able to hand in assignments out of order.** For example, if you did not hand in your thesis statement you cannot hand in your note cards and so on.
6. You must create a bibliography card for each of your sources. Bibliographical information must be placed at the top of the card. The various formats of bibliography cards are provided in this packet.
7. You are responsible for creating note cards while reading through your sources. Note cards will include quoted information from your sources that can be used to support a thesis. All information must be properly documented using in-text citations. **You must give credit to the source that you are using to prove the thesis of your paper, even if you are paraphrasing!** If you do not do this, your paper is plagiarized and you will have to re-do it, or accept a zero (0) for the assignment.
8. The research paper must be handed in, enclosed in a binder. The binder will have all of the components of the research paper (assignment sheet, thesis statement, research articles, note cards, works-cited page, rough-draft and final paper). This binder will be graded. If the student is missing any component, points will be deducted.
9. The final paper must follow all guidelines on the checklist provided in this packet.

All assignments must be submitted on time, no exceptions. Ten (10) points will be deducted each day your assignments are late.

Each assignment will be graded.

If absent, the assignment MUST be handed in the next day (this does not include holiday recess) or e-mailed to me (NOTE: If the document is e-mailed and it is not received, late points will be deducted, therefore DO NOT rely on e-mail.)
**Week by Week Timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week One</td>
<td>1/18-1/21</td>
<td>Library - gathering research and working on note cards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week Two</td>
<td>1/25-1/28</td>
<td>Regents Week - You will complete highlighting your research and note cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(NOTE: note cards are used only for resources other than internet articles).</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>One on one conferences will be held on Friday 1/28 and Monday 1/31.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week Three</td>
<td>1/31-2/4</td>
<td>Classroom - Working on outline in class. Typing outline in the computer lab.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week Four</td>
<td>2/7-2/11</td>
<td>Classroom and Computer lab - Completing a works-cited page. One on one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>conferences about outline and works-cited page will be held. You will begin</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>writing a rough-draft for your paper at home. Complete writing rough-draft</td>
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<td></td>
<td>and be ready to type the final paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week Five</td>
<td>2/15-2/16</td>
<td>Computer Lab - Typing final paper. Final paper including a works-cited page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>and binder will be collected on Wednesday, Feb 16th. The final paper MUST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>be submitted to Turnitin.com by Wednesday, Feb 16th.</td>
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</tbody>
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**Due Dates**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>3. Highlighted research packets, note cards &amp; binder.</td>
<td>Friday-1/28</td>
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<td>NOTE: research sources MUST be highlighted and color coded to get credit.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>(minimum of 4 sources, one must be for the novel Of Mice and Men)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Outline (typed)</td>
<td>Monday-2/7</td>
<td>100 quiz grade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Works-Cited Page (typed)</td>
<td>Thursday 2/10</td>
<td>100 quiz grade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Final Paper (including works-cited page).</td>
<td>Wednesday 2/16</td>
<td>200 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 copies:</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Binder (including all of the above)</td>
<td>Wednesday 2/16</td>
<td>100 test grade</td>
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</table>

Remember, writing is a process. Therefore, you may not turn in #5 if you still have not submitted #3. You are expected to follow this schedule and show me the assigned work in order.
What are the steps to writing a research paper?

1. **Choose a TOPIC**
   (In your case, the general topic is *Of Mice and Men*)
   Using your knowledge of this novel, you will be attempting to prove a **thesis**.

2. **Go to the library and take NOTES on the book.** You can take notes on commentary and criticism made on this book that could be used to support a thesis, meaning, to prove its validity. Use this information to create note cards. Also, be sure to correctly gather all bibliographical information for the bibliography cards.

3. **Using your notes gathered in the library during the research phase of this project, create a THESIS STATEMENT.**
   A thesis statement is the one (1) sentence you will prove in your research paper. (It cannot be a fact).

**Examples of thesis statements that are applicable to *Of Mice and Men* include:**

1. *Of Mice and Men* expresses the alienation and loneliness of migrant farm workers who were trying to achieve the American Dream during the time period surrounding The Great Depression.

2. In the novel *Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck reflects the struggles that a number of individuals suffer when they attempt to obtain the American Dream and fail.

3. John Steinbeck’s, *Of Mice and Men*, explores the social problems of this time period including the mistreatment of the poor.

4. John Steinbeck’s, *Of Mice and Men*, explores the social problems of this time period including the mistreatment of the mentally challenged

5. John Steinbeck’s, *Of Mice and Men*, explores the social problems of this time period including the mistreatment of African Americans.


4. Organize your notes, identifying any notes that could be used to support or prove your thesis. Once you have created a thesis and gathered citations and notes to support this thesis, you can create an **OUTLINE**.

5. Write a **ROUGH DRAFT** based on your outline. Be sure to follow the correct format for in-text citations.

6. Revise the draft and submit a **FINAL COPY** (one hard copy submitted in class, the other submitted to Turnitin.com).
Where do I find credible sources to use/cite in the research paper?

1. THE LIBRARY & THE WRITING LAB
   a. You may use books/articles containing criticism of the novel. The librarians will make these books available to you.
   b. You may use the school databases provided to research articles and periodicals.
      - We will review the process of using school databases in class.
   c. You must use a copy of the novel, *Of Mice and Men*.
   d. You may use the articles provided for you in class.

You will search through the books provided and databases to find research on *Of Mice and Men*. You may print out articles and read through them in order to find appropriate quotations. Remember, the more information that you obtain, the better off you will be. Students who are not working diligently during these class periods will be removed from class and placed in another class with independent work. It is imperative that you utilize class time to the best of your ability.

**How is the research paper broken down?**

**Introduction:**
Grabber (this sentence introduces the research paper, while grabbing the readers attention)
Explain the 2 main points in your own words.
Thesis statement (what you intend to prove)

**Body Paragraph #1:**
Discuss the specific topic chosen (women, race, mentally challenged, migrant workers, poor or American Dream) during the time period of the 1930’s.

**Body Paragraph #2:**
Research to support your thesis. Literary Criticism.
What have critics written about the novel that supports your thesis?
Blooms Database, articles on class assignments page.
Lastly you need examples from the text (OFMAM) to support your thesis.

**Conclusion:**
Restate thesis (DO NOT REWRITE, RESTATE)
Sum up each main point.
Add a clincher (the last thought on your topic that you want your audience to think about.)
Research Paper Guidelines Checklist

These are the guidelines that you must follow for the research paper. You must complete all parts in order to achieve the maximum grade. Use this handout as a checklist and STAPLE IT TO YOUR FINAL COPY, which is due on Friday, 2/16.

1. Length (2-3 pages, not including words cited page)
2. Heading (title of your paper)
3. Introduction (grabber, brief introduction to topic)
4. Thesis statement (what you are proving in your paper)
5. Two (2) main points (as discussed in class, place in introduction)
6. Two (2) body paragraphs (supporting each main point with concrete details)
7. A minimum of four (4) quotes (at least two (2) quotes per main point, in-text citations must be used)
8. Conclusion (thesis restated, two (2) main points summed up and a clincher)
9. Words cited page (alphabetical and using the proper format)
10. Typed in black ink
   a. double spaced
   b. 12 point Times New Roman font
   c. 1 inch margins all around

11. Spell Check
12. Grammar Check
13. Proofread by an adult, family member, or teacher
14. Saved on disk/flash-drive (revisions will be necessary at a later date)
15. Sent to Turnitin.com
Research Paper Guide

Introduction
- Grabber (this sentence introduces the research paper, while grabbing the readers attention)
- Explain the 2 main points in your own words.
- Thesis statement (what you intend to prove)

Body Paragraphs (1 & 2):
- Topic sentence (a sentence that introduces the paragraph)
- Example #1 (this is your detail/quote, including in-text citation)
  - 2-3 sentences that explain example #1 and how it relates to the topic of the paragraph and your thesis.
- Example #2 (this is your detail/quote, including in-text citation)
  - 2-3 sentences that explain example #2 and how it relates to the topic of the paragraph and your thesis.
- Example #3 (this is your detail/quote, including in-text citation)
  - 2-3 sentences that explain example #3 and how it relates to the topic of the paragraph and your thesis.
- Example #4 (this is your detail/quote, including in-text citation)
  - 2-3 sentences that explain example #4 and how it relates to the topic of the paragraph and your thesis.
- Concluding sentence (this sentence wraps up the ideas presented in the paragraph)

Conclusion (do not repeat what you wrote in your introduction)
- Restate thesis (DO NOT REWRITE, RESTATE)
- Sum up each main point.
- Add a clincher (the last thought on your topic that you want your audience to think about.)
**Research Binder**

The research binder must include the following:

1. Each section must be split up using dividers.
2. The sections must be labeled and include the following:

   a. **Research Paper Assignment:**
      i. assignment sheet
      ii. thesis statement

   b. **Research Note Cards**
      i. All research articles (highlighted & color coded)
      ii. Note cards are for books used (you MUST have at least one note card for the novel *Of Mice and Men*. Note cards are used for resources other than internet).

   c. **Outline**
      i. template worksheet completed
      ii. typed outline

   d. **Rough-draft**
      i. hand written or typed rough-draft

   e. **Final Paper**
      i. typed final paper with works-cited page
OUTLINE

Introduction

Grabber sentence: ____________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Thesis: _________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Sum up your 2 main points in your own words:

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Main Points:
  I. _________________________________________________________________

  II. ______________________________________________________________

  III. ______________________________________________________________

First Body Paragraph

Main Point I: __________________________________________________________

  Details: A: __________________________________________________________

  B: _________________________________________________________________

  C: _________________________________________________________________

  D: _________________________________________________________________
**Second Body Paragraph**

Main Point II: __________________________________________________________

Details: A: ____________________________________________________________

B: _________________________________________________________________

C: _________________________________________________________________

D: _________________________________________________________________

**Conclusion**

Restate thesis: _______________________________________________________

Sum up each main point: _______________________________________________

Add a clincher (the last thought on your topic that you want your audience to think about.)______
Research Paper Signed Contract

All due dates are listed below. Students and parents should review and note these dates, as late assignments will receive grade penalties. All assignments must be submitted on time, no exceptions. Ten (10) points will be deducted each day your assignments are late. Each assignment will be graded.

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*NOTE: research sources MUST be highlighted and color coded to get credit.*  
**minimum of 4 sources, one must be the novel *Of Mice and Men*** | Friday-1/28   | 100 points             |                                     |
| 4. Outline (typed)                             | Monday-2/7    | 100 quiz grade         |                                     |
| 5. Works-Cited Page (typed)                    | Thursday 2/10 | 100 quiz grade         |                                     |
2 copies:  
Copy #1: hard copy submitted to teacher  
Copy #2: electronically submitted to Turnitin.com | Wednesday 2/16 | 200 points             |                                     |
| 7. Binder (including all of the above)         | Wednesday 2/16 | 100 test grade        |                                     |

Remember, writing is a process. Therefore, you may not turn in #5 if you still have not submitted #3. You are expected to follow this schedule and show me the assigned work in order.

If absent, the assignment MUST be handed in the next day (this does not include holiday recess) or e-mailed to me (NOTE: If the document is e-mailed and it is not received, late points will be deducted, therefore DO NOT rely on e-mail).

My child ___________________________ (student’s name) and I have read and we understand the above instructions, as well as, the timetable outlining the requirements for the *Of Mice and Men* Research Assignment.

Parent’s Signature __________________________________________ Student’s Signature __________________________________________

Parent Print Name __________________________________________ Student Print Name __________________________________________

To check the due dates or to contact me, please go to my website and follow the appropriate links. Thank you for your help and cooperation. liciaffone@sewanhaka.k12.ny.us