



KEANSBURG HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH II – AMERICAN LITERATURE

Of Mice and Men Newspaper Project

TASK: The newspaper you work for has assigned you to create a four page newspaper related to the characters, setting, themes, and plot of the novel *Of Mice and Men*. As you write articles for your newspaper, you need to be conscious of your audience and the time period in which you're reporting. These elements are crucial to the success of your project.

PROCEDURE: You must complete all jobs described for your newspaper project. You will be graded on each section individually and as a finished complete product.

Each newspaper MUST include:

- An original title with a colorful logo or graphic: It should reflect something about the novel. Be creative!!
- Date, volume, and number: under the title, which is relevant to the book's setting
- Index: article titles and the page numbers they can be found on, placed on page one in the bottom right corner
- Page numbers: marked on each page (outside upper corner)
- Headlines and bylines for **each** article
- Graphic and/or photo: each article will include some sort of graphic and/or photo with a caption that explains it.
- Each article should first be written as an essay in MS Word and then formatted into columns as necessary. Writing should be typed in 12 point font.
- Save **EVERYTHING!!** Save all work here at school as well as at home. Do not delete your work until you have received your **final** grade on this project.

The tasks that will be included in your newspaper are as follows:

A. Current Events Section: (include at least one appropriate photo/graphic) To begin this project, you must research America in the 1930's during the Great Depression. We have learned about the Great Depression in class, and now you must find some information on your own. It is important that you do a thorough job with your research because you are going to have to include information and make connections to this time period **throughout** this assignment.

You must find two significant events (nationally or locally important to this time period) to explicitly report on for this section of your newspaper. You must summarize the important issues at stake in great detail. Each current event summary should be at least two paragraphs long.

- Make sure that your stories are closely related to the appropriate time period we are referencing and that all articles are about a major topic (locally or nationally).
- Please make sure you are choosing stories that have real national news significance, NOT the latest Hollywood drama (the 1930's versions of Justin Beiber and Lindsay Lohan)

B. One Spot News Story: (choose one) Your article must include the five W's (who, what, when, why, and where), as well as interviews of police reports, eyewitnesses, friends or acquaintances of the character which help to explain the circumstances.

1. Main Characters Headline Story - (include photo) Tells the full story of George and Lennie, their friendship and dream, strengths and weaknesses (may include details about Candy and Slim). Quotations from your interviews of these characters or those who knew them must be included.
2. Antagonists Article - (include photo) Tells the full story of Curley and his wife, their personality traits with examples from the novel, or from other local residents who knew them.
3. Police Report – (include photo) Tells about one of the “arrest worthy” events from the novel, including witness reports and specific details from the novel.
4. Book Review - (include graphic) Write a review of the book *Of Mice and Men*. Pretend that it was just published. Discuss the literary elements that made the book successful. Relate it to the people in Salinas who might read it. Tell whether or not you recommend it and explain why or why not.

C. One Feature News Story: Minimum 500 words (choose one)

1. Advice Column - Pretend two of the characters each wrote a short letter to your advice column about the major problem they face in the story (they should write with assumed names related to their problem). Write a response to each letter as the columnist with advice to help them solve their problem.
2. Obituaries Column - Articles about Lennie's and Curley's wife's death.
3. Sports Column - Create a sports column from the 1930s (include local, Salinas, CA, and national sports which would have occurred both locally and nationally in the 1930s).
4. New Ending - Write an article telling what happened to George and the others on the ranch after Lennie's death. This article should realistically follow the plot and themes of the novel itself.

D. One Creative Piece: (choose one) Here you should be creative and colorful. Have fun with this section!

1. Local Five Day Weather Forecast - (Salinas, CA) Include graphics. Check a local newspaper for examples.
2. Comic Strips - Two comic strips related to characters, themes, plot of the novel
3. Crossword Puzzle - (No word searches) Create a crossword puzzle with up and down questions relating to the novel (must have at least 10 up and 10 down) - include answer key
4. Advertisements - Create by hand or digitally, at least five graphic advertisements to sell products and services for the characters and townspeople in Salinas (this must be relevant to the time period).