English 1

*Of Mice & Men*

What is YOUR American Dream?

Our class goal is to analyze the American Dream from the context of John Steinbeck’s novella *Of Mice & Men* and present day. Think about your personal goals and aspirations by answering the questions below:

List THREE goals or dreams you would like to accomplish before the age of thirty.

*Example: I hope to attain my master’s degree*.

1.

2.

3.

List THREE goals or dreams you would like to attain before you die.

*Example: I hope to publish a book*.

1.

2.

3.

Of the above goals and dreams, which are most important to you? How will you fulfill these dreams? What are you currently doing to ensure your dreams will be possible in the future? What makes some of them more difficult than others to achieve? How would you feel if you were unable to attain them? What do your dreams say about you as a person? What, if anything, do they suggest about American society as a whole?

\*\*Answer the above questions in ONE PAGE in your journal.

2. What quotes from the article best illustrate the article’s “take” on the concept of the American Dream? Do you agree with the image of America that these quotes present? Why or why not?

3. Compare and contrast the article’s presentation of the American Dream with contemporary conceptions (2017). What about the representation of the American Dream has stayed the same through time and what, if anything, has changed?

American Dream Visuals: Due after Chapter 4 in *Of Mice & Men*

Your task is to create a powerful visual exemplifying the American Dream over time. Working in groups of THREE, create a divided illustration. On one half you need to depict George and Lennie’s dreams and how they are indicative of the 1920’s and 30’s in America. Also TYPE and include THREE quotes from the novella as evidence. On the other half, demonstrate what the American Dream consists of for young adults today. For the 2017 portion, be sure to include THREE typed quotes from popular culture; movies, song lyrics, slang, etc. Have fun, be creative, and prove that you understand both the simplicity and the complexity of the American Dream. (30 points)