

Authentic Intellectual Work

Teacher – Ross

Subject – English IV

Grade – 12

Lesson – Using info. from several primary sources, students will generalize their findings to arrive at an understanding of the lives of hobos and migrant workers during the Great Depression.

IC Essential Skills/Concepts – Engage in the information literacy process: access, evaluate, and communicate information and ideas.

Two H.O.T. questions to structure conversations in your classroom – 1.) How will you use the information that you learn in the memoirs to arrive at conclusions about the lives of hobos and migrant workers during the Depression? 2.) How do you account for the difference in the way people viewed hobos and migrant workers compared to the way you view them today?

Introduction/Background – In preparing to read *Of Mice and Men*, students will use primary sources of information (memoirs) to answer five general questions about hobos/migrant workers during the Great Depression.

Task – (Can attach)

Bring any supporting documents that will assist students in completing this task such as; rubrics, additional handouts, graphic organizers, Viking Pride in writing, etc.

Revised

Depression Memoir Research Assignment
English IV
Preparation for *Of Mice and Men*

Studies of learning have shown us that people learn best when they can connect new learning to existing knowledge. Studies of reading show us that good readers not only connect new learning to existing knowledge, but also actively identify with the events, characters, etc. in their reading. Therefore, educating oneself about the background of an assigned piece of literature will help a reader to better understand it.

In preparation for studying John Steinbeck's novel *Of Mice and Men*, you will be learning about how hobos/migrant workers lived during the Great Depression of the 1930s by using memoirs. A memoir is a oral or written account of the events which occurred earlier in someone's life as he or she remembers them. Memoirs can vary in length from a paragraph to an entire book.

Step 1:

Fill out the charts which were sent to you via e-mail by finding a minimum of **five memoirs** from people who were alive during the Grade Depression (1929-1941). **At least two** of these memoirs need to be about **migrant workers**. Only use memoirs that **answer at least one of the questions** on the chart.

Copy the title (and URL if web based) into the top left blank. This will help you document these memoirs when you complete an MLA works cited page.

In the "Memoir Text/Content" box, you may copy or cut and paste the part of the memoir which answers the question above. Whatever is entered here can be verbatim from your source.

In the "Info. in your own words" box, translate the information from the column above into your own words. You may summarize, rephrase, etc. This will help you avoid plagiarism.

Step 2:

Using the information that you have found in your research, compile an essay which talks about the lives of hobos and migrant workers during the Great Depression. Your essay needs to answer all five of the questions that were asked on the first sheet that you received and should give the reader a thorough understanding of what it was like to not have a home.

Your essay should . . .

. . . show that you have combined the information from all five sources to arrive at some general information about the lives of hobos and migrant workers during the Depression.

. . . answer all five questions thoroughly. The answer to each question should probably be at least one paragraph in length. The reader of the essay should easily be able to identify which questions are being answered in the particular paragraph.

. . . be at least two double-spaced pages long.

. . . have internal documentation in MLA style (this means that at least five sets of parenthetical references are located in the essay, at least one for each resource).

. . . have a works cited page in MLA style.

. . . be constructed according to Viking Pride in Writing guidelines.

. . . follow the conventions of correctly written English.

TITLE & URL	What kinds of events (be as specific as possible) led to people/families becoming migrant workers or hoboes during the Depression	What was the general demographic of migrant workers/hoboes? (Discuss aspects such as age, gender, education, urban/rural upbringing, occupations, etc.)	How did migrant workers/hoboes travel and why did they travel in these ways?	What was the general public's perception of migrant workers during the Great Depression and what contributed to this perception? (List specific experiences that people may have had which caused them to have these perceptions.)	How is the general public's perception of migrant workers/hoboes (or the homeless) different today from the perception of the 1930s? What are some reasons for that difference? (Use your common sense knowledge and discuss this question with your parents. Hint: Why don't you pick up hitchhikers when you see them?)
Memoir #1 Text/Content					
Memoir #1 Info. in your own words.					

	Excellent Work 15-14 pts.	Good Work 13-12 pts.	Work in Progress 11-10 pts.	Unacceptable Work 9-0 pts.
Content	All five of the questions are answered clearly and concisely, leaving the reader with no questions.	All five of the questions are answered, but not clearly--OR--Only four of the questions are answered.	Only three questions are answered, and answers are not clear. The reader has many questions about hoboes/migrants.	Only two of the questions are answered, and the answers are not clear. The reader gains little understanding of hoboes/migrants.
Con- struction	The essay reads smoothly and easily, flows seamlessly from one topic to the next, and is logically organized.	For the most part, the essay reads smoothly and is logically organized, but doesn't always flow well from one topic to the next.	Essay doesn't always read smoothly, has some organizational flaws, and is sometimes choppy as it moves from one topic to another.	Essay is difficult to understand because it doesn't flow smoothly and logically.
Docu- menta- tion	MLA documentation has 0-4 errors, and credit is always given where credit is due.	MLA documentation has 5-8 errors, and one parenthetical reference is missing.	MLA documentation has 9-12 errors, and more than one parenthetical reference is missing.	MLA documentation has more than 12 errors, credit is not given where credit is due.
Correct- ness	Essay has 0-4 errors.	Essay has 5-8 errors.	Essay has 9-12 errors.	Essay has more than 12 errors.