

Essay Assignment

Name _____ Date _____

Sometimes works of literature which seem at first to be very different from one another, nevertheless, share many similarities. *Frank*, a contemporary young adult novel, *Of Mice and Men*, a modern classic of American literature, and *Hamlet and Juliet*, a sixteenth century drama, are all concerned with aspects of the human condition which, upon closer examination, are strikingly similar.

Your task is to write a multi-paragraph essay in which you discuss one interesting connection among *Frank* by Laurie R. King, *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, and *Hamlet and Juliet* by William Shakespeare. What similar truth about human nature do all three works illustrate?

STEPS: Check off each step as it is completed.

_____ **1. Brainstorming:** In the box below make a list of all the connections between the three works that you can think of. Share your ideas with the class, and your teacher will record everyone's ideas on the board.

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_____ **2. Narrowing the focus:** Then choose one connection that you find most interesting and circle it. This will be your topic.

_____ **3. Free writing, part one:** How does each work develop this topic? Write one-paragraphs in five minutes to generate supporting ideas for your topic. Don't stop writing! Your teacher will time you.

_____ **4. Free writing, part two:** What insights about human nature or life in general does this connection suggest? Write one-paragraphs in three minutes to explore ideas for your thesis statement.
