**Introduction**: In *Ivan* and *Gatsby* we discussed how literary components work together to develop themes. For this assignment, you will pick one of the following characters to look at how they struggle AND what these struggles might reveal about Steinbeck’s message to the reader.

**Universal Themes of Struggle in the Human Condition:**

Man vs. Self - Man vs. Man - Man vs. Society - Man vs. Nature - Man vs. Supernatural

**Instructions: Pick ONE of the characters below and write an argumentative paragraph answering the following prompt:**

**Prompt:** In *Graph of Wrath*, what does the character appear to struggle with most (pick one of the concepts above) AND what message does Steinbeck convey to you through his illustration of this struggle?

**Evidence Supports** (Note: you are *not* limited to these chapters):*Grapes of Wrath* provides rich characterizations. The following chapters have character details that may help you find quotes to back your claims:

**Ma Joad:** Chapter 8: Ma’s physical description and role in the family; Chapter 13: Ma’s reasons for not thinking too much about the family’s future in California; Chapter 16: Ma’s refusal to let the family split up after one of their vehicles breaks down.

**Jim Casey:** Chapter 4: Why Casey quit being a Preacher; Chapter 6: Casey realizes a new calling; Chapter 20: Casey’s actions against the cop and his sacrifice by turning himself in.

**Tom Joad:** Chapter 13: Tom’s ability to perceive and understand events where other’s cannot – even when it affects themselves (the gas station owner); Chapter 16: Tom’s interaction with the One-eyed Man - Tom’s advice to his brother Al - When the jackrabbit ran onto the road & Tom’s reaction; Chapter 20: Tom’s observations, words, and actions in the Hooverville.

**Performance Standard: Argumentative Paragraph**

1. Answer the Prompt by making a CLAIM.
2. Support your position by INTRODUCING evidence (THREE separate pieces)
3. The EVIDENCE should take the form of a smallish QUOTE from the text (4-6 words) preceded and/or followed by PARAPHRASE – Remember to include internal source citation MLA – e.g. (Steinbeck 100)
4. COMMENTARY provides in-depth analysis and makes the connection between the evidence to your claim. Commentary should be lengthy.

* Avoid summarizing plot points already presented in the evidence section.
* Relate or make connections to prior knowledge.

1. CONCLUSION sentence: Recall your claim and reveal any universal truth you may have discovered.