

Care Theory and the Grapes of Wrath

Assignment Description: In her book, *The Challenge to Care in Schools*, Nel Noddings describes a curriculum in which students act toward caring about themselves; close family members and friends, strangers and distant others; animals, plants, and the environment; the human-made world; and ideas. In this assignment, you will examine the *Grapes of Wrath* through the lens of care. What does Steinbeck believe about each of these themes of care? There are two aspects to this assignment.

Part 1: Newspaper Editorial - We live in an age of increasing rancor and deception, of lies and deceit. First, using a journalistic lens, I'd like you to write through one of the lenses of care, using Steinbeck's work as a source. In thinking about caring for one's self, caring for others, family or friends, distant strangers, the environment, the human-made world, an abstract idea - what can one be taught from this work? Convince your reader's of your world view, bringing together the worlds of social justice of today and of the past.

Length - Your assignment may be no more than 750 words. Use text sparingly, and make every word count. I will dissect these word-by-word.

Part 2: Multiple Forms of Representation - Throughout our reading of the *Grapes of Wrath*, we have engaged in "Upon Closer Reading..." making connections to the text that demonstrate our understanding of the plot and intercalary chapters through articles, songs, videos, and other forms of representation. In so doing, we are engaging in aspects of CRISPA, a lesson planning tool. In the assignment, I'll ask you to represent your learning in a non-traditional form. Perhaps you want to write *Grapes of Wrath* as a one-act play, or create the *Grapes of Wrath* dance. Maybe you're interested in creating a series of portraits that capture who Tom Joad was as a person and how we should view this complex character. Maybe you want to create a lesson about *Grapes of Wrath* for AP Econ. Or consider how *Grapes of Wrath* applies to a calculus class. Or create a professional training for small business owners about what the *Grapes of Wrath* tells us about industry. Maybe it's a memorial or monument to one of the characters or to Steinbeck.

While it does not have to, ideally, the form of representation is able to be connected to your thoughts about care. Maybe it works together, maybe it doesn't. But I'm looking for you think about connections between the modern world and Steinbeck's world, about connections between form and function.

Part 1 due Tuesday, Oct. 31

Part 2 due Friday, Nov. 3



