**Synthesis Essay Outline**

1. **Intro** 
   1. Attention Getter:

•Imagine a man being violently shot in the gut or trapped in a cage because he did not know his own strength. Then imagine an old woman losing her limbs slowly and painfully because of a degenerative disease.

•This would have happened to a real woman, Ginger, and a fictional character, Lennie from Of Mice and Men, had their loved ones not intervened.

* 1. Thesis: The men who killed Ginger and Lennie, ironically both named George, broke the law by killing their loved ones and should be tried in a court of law, however they did not kill their loved ones maliciously, but rather out of an act of mercy and should not be treated as murders.

1. **Body Paragraphs**
   1. Transition + Argument 1: *While the death of a loved one is always tragic*, Ginger and Lennie would have suffered more had their loved one not ended their lives.
      1. Example (parenthetical documentation)

•Article: Ginger would have lost her toes: “She didn’t want to go the hospital…start cutting her toes off” (Arizona Man).

•Of Mice and Men: Curley says, “When you see ‘um, give ‘im no chance. Shoot for his gut. That’ll double ‘im over” (Steinbeck 97).

* + 1. Analysis (how/why important to thesis)

•Losing body parts, muscle weakness, and paralysis lead to a horrific life for the person suffering from Muscular Sclerosis. Ginger would have suffered more in life than in death. She made this decision for herself.

•Lennie did not decide for himself. George took that choice away from Lennie, however, George knew that Lennie’s future would only hold torture. Lennie would either be institutionalized during a time when the mentally ill were put through horrific tests or the mob would torture or lynch him. He let Lennie die in peace.

* 1. Transition + Argument 2: *Before their decision to murder their loved ones*, both George Sanders and George Milton showed great devotion to Ginger and Lennie through the course of their lives.
     1. Example (parenthetical documentation)

•Article: “He cooked for her, cleaned the house, did laundry, put on her makeup and would take her to the beauty salon where he’d hold her hands up so she could get her nails done” (Arizona Man).

•Of Mice and Men: Slim says, “Funny how you and him string along together…I hardly never seen two guys travel together (Steinbeck 39).

* + 1. Analysis (how/why important to thesis)

• George Sanders showed devotion to his wife his whole life, going beyond what is typically expected of a husband. This shows he would not kill his wife with vengefully.

•George and Lenny supported each other, so much so other characters took notice. They support each other by balancing their strengths and weaknesses. George needed and loved Lennie.

* 1. Transition + Argument 3: *These men showed their devotion until the very end* by making a conscious choice to perform an act outside of the law in order to give their loved one peace.
     1. Example (parenthetical documentation)

•Article: “It is very clear that he [Mr. Sanders] will never forget that his actions ended the life of his wife” (Arizona Man).

•Of Mice and Men: After George shot Lennie, his hands were shaky and he looked visibly disturbed (Steinbeck 107).

* + 1. Analysis (how/why important to thesis)

•Ending a life is not something one gets over quickly.

• Both men made a choice to consciously damage themselves when they

helped their loved ones rest peacefully.

1. **Conclusion**
   1. Transition: *To rest in peace means to be free of all physical and mental troubles.*
   2. Review thesis: George Sanders and George Milton deserve to be tried for their crimes, however, they did not kill their loved ones with ill intent, but rather out of an act of mercy. They should not be treated as murders.
   3. Memorable statement:

•Is there a clear content answer to the question of murder vs. mercy in the cases of George Sanders or George Milton?

•Imagine being faced with their same choices.

•What would you do?

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**Works Cited**

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Steinbeck, John. *Of Mice and Men*. N.p.: Covici Friede, 1937. Print.