East of Eden Research Proposal

After reading *East of Eden*, I was struck with how John Steinbeck used the landscape in the novel to help him tell his allegorical tale. This made me wonder if all people are so heavily influenced by their geographical locations. I know that the lives of people around the world certainly have cultures that are responses to their physical surroundings. The livelihood of whole groups of people is determined by their geographical location. Therefore, I would like to research how much a geographical location could influence the success and possibly happiness of society. I plan to research within the realms of psychology, geography, and consensus studies. Some of my sources might also be opinion pieces from *Opposing Viewpoints*. Though we are taught in America that success is based upon work ethic, I hope to prove with my synthesis essay that sometimes success is based on an uncontrollable factor, such as one’s physical landscape.