

The Great Gatsby & The American Dream **American Literature**

Fitzgerald's novel raises some important questions about "The American Dream," a concept that we have been discussing and tracing in Gatsby's story. A main question the novel raises: to what extent is the American Dream possible? Another question based on this one that many have asked is: if it is possible, is it still alive in the minds and hearts of Americans today? For this project, you will be conducting research into this question to find out if it is possible, and if it is still alive in our world today, and to what extent.

Tasks:

- I. Interview two people, recording the interview while asking them the questions below. Take notes on their answers on a separate page, and then create two other questions to ask each person relating to the American Dream.
 - a. What does the American Dream mean to you?
 - b. What, in your opinion, does a person need to do in order to achieve the American Dream?
 - c. Have you ever known anyone, including yourself, who has achieved the American Dream? How did they do this?
 - d. What advice would you give to someone who is hoping to achieve the American Dream?
 - e. Two questions of your choice – they can be related to something this person said, or other questions you have.
- II. Find at least 2 articles that relate to the concept of the American Dream. Related topics include, but are not limited to: education, immigration, the economy, and class (in society)
- III. Write a paper reflecting on the research that you have from steps 1 and 2. Follow the following format to structure your reflection:
 - a. Page 1: ****This works as both your intro and conclusion, because you will write this after your interviews and research**** Discuss the articles you found, and in doing so, answer the following questions: what is the American Dream? Is it the same for everyone? To what extent is it alive and possible to achieve? What does it require to achieve?
 - b. Page 2: Interview #1 – discuss the person's responses, but don't feel the need to go question-by-question. Instead, discuss their overall impression of the American Dream, and include at least 2 direct quotes from them to support your findings.
 - c. Page 2: Interview # 2 – same as above

Requirements:

- I. MLA format
 - a. Double spaced
 - b. 12-point, Times New Roman
 - c. Last name page # in upper right corner
 - d. In-text citations
 - e. Works Cited page
- II. Minimum of 3 pages
- III. Minimum of 2 interviews, plus notes, and 2 research sources

American Dream Project Rubric

Part 1: First Interview			/20 points
Exceeds Expectations 18-20 points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview notes: detailed, but not every word is written down. • At least two direct quotes • Write-up: clear, insightful argument presented, highlighting very specifically the person's view on the American Dream 	Meets Expectations 15-17 points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview notes: somewhat detailed, but information is missing or incomplete • Two or less direct quotes • The write-up portrays the person's view in a broad or general way, and lacks a clear argument 	Approaching Expect. 11-14 pts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview notes: not attached, not detailed enough. • Missing direct quotes • The write-up: interviewee's view of the American Dream is not clearly expressed, or is too general to be discussed thoroughly. 	

Part 2: Second Interview			/20 points
18-20 points: same as above	15-17 points: same as above	11-14 points: same as above	

Part 3: American Dream Research			/20 points
18-20 points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two (or more) articles used • Clear vision of the American Dream presented • All questions from the directions have been answered or addressed in some way. • Depth and thoughtfulness: student has looked at the many aspects of society that contribute to this idea 	15-17 points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two research articles used • Somewhat clear vision of the Dream is presented • All questions have been answered in a broad or general way • Depth and thoughtfulness: many aspects of the American Dream are discussed briefly or with less depth 	11-14 points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer than two research articles consulted • Unclear view of the Dream is discussed • There was some attempt to answer the questions presented in the directions • Depth and thoughtfulness: a surface level discussion of the issues has been presented. 	

Part 3: Grammar, Writing, Requirements			/20 points
18-20 points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentence variety • Strong, diverse vocabulary • Grammar is near perfect • MLA format & all sources cited correctly • Works Cited page 	15-17 points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less sentence variety • Less strong vocabulary • Grammar is mostly good, but some minor errors • MLA format is used, but may contain some errors 	11-14 points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little sentence and vocabulary variety • Grammatical errors throughout (confusing meaning) • MLA format is incorrect 	

Total for the project ___/80 points