

The American Dream – Myth or Reality- 200 points

DUE: December 10, 2014

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- You will analyze and research a functional myth (a type of myth that serves as a charter for social action, conveys how to live: assumptions, values, core meanings of individuals, families, communities).

This particular functional myth is upheld by many who live in the United States. It is called The American Dream. You will argue that in today's United States the American Dream is viable and attainable by all citizens OR, simply put, that it isn't viable and attainable by all citizens. Your argument will begin with a section on the American Dream's original form (one page), then move onto a section explaining whether or not the dream exists today in its original form (one page).

- If you argue that the American Dream is viable and attainable by all, **you will devote a minimum of two pages to explaining your argument with evidence and parenthetical references.**
- If you argue that the American Dream is not viable and attainable by all, **you will devote a minimum of two pages to explaining your argument with evidence and parenthetical references.**

It may be helpful to create different sections within the paper.

- **EXAMPLE SECTIONS:**
 - 1) The Original American Dream—one page
 - 2) The American Dream's Current Form—one page
 - 3) Argument (viable and attainable by all or not viable and attainable by all)—2 pages MINIMUM

Guidelines for Each Section

1) **The Original American Dream**—first, do a Google search for “American Radio Works: A Better Life”, print, actively read, and explain the following

- Who coined the term “American Dream”
- What did it mean?
- What was the context for its origination? Time period, political and social events of the time.

2) **The American Dream's Current Form**—First, do a Google search for “The American Dream and the Economic Myth” on the Huffington Post, a blog. Print, read, annotate, and decide if the economic myth is prevalent, just as the author suggests, or not. Explain your position and explain what you believe the current form of the American Dream means to Americans today.

3) **The Argument**—first, do a Google search for “The Mobility Myth” in *The New Yorker* and another search for “Five Myths about the American Dream” from *The Washington Post*. Read both articles, annotating and taking Cornell Notes. **Second, find two other articles, using one of the research data bases the school has on the library website.** Do this when we are scheduled to be in the library computer lab. Read these two articles, annotating and taking Cornell Notes. Based on evidence from these four articles, state your claim and support it with statistics and facts you think are most important.

The Claim

The claim - also known as your argument or thesis statement - will need to be stated at the end of a paragraph that connects the first two sections to the third section. This is a major transition in the paper, allowing you to move from background and evaluation of the American dream to your full argument (body of evidence and conclusion) about the viability and attainment of the myth today.

The Format

MLA Guidelines, parenthetical references, and a Works Cited page that includes all sources read. **You are required to use a minimum of two parenthetical references per page.** For each parenthetical reference, you will use a passage from a source that is treated in one of the following ways which we will also practice in class:

- A. Quoted word for word
- B. Summarized
- C. Paraphrased

SUBMISSION

- **You will submit your paper electronically to Turnitin.com by 11:50 PM December 10, 2014.** Check to make certain that it was accepted into the program. Your paper will not be graded without submission to Turnitin.com.
- **You will bring me a printed paper copy identical to the one electronically submitted on December 11 at the beginning of class.**

