

**The American Dream Project**

The notion (idea or concept) of the American Dream plays a very important role in *The Great Gatsby.* In light of this, you will have the opportunity to demonstrate to the class (with a partner) your definition of and insights toward the American Dream of the past and the present.

**Directions:**

With your assigned partner (chosen randomly), you will create a 10-15 slide PowerPoint project and present your findings in front of the class on the given question:

“What is the American Dream?”

Your slides should be organized in the following outline:

1. You and your partner’s definition of the American Dream. How did you come up with your definition? Please explain/elaborate.
2. Answer the question “Is the American Dream a real term or attitude?” Defend your response with detail/examples.
3. A representation of the American Dream in the 1920s (money, status, etc.)
4. A representation of the American Dream today (mansion, record deal, etc.)
5. Comparison between the 1920s and today in regards to the American Dream.
6. What are your (American) Dream(s)? Please share with the class.
7. Do you believe in the American Dream? Is it still a real idea, or is it outdated?

**Requirements:**

* Presentation must be a minimum of five minutes, and no more than ten minutes.
* Please hand in a printed version of your PowerPoint slides along with your presentation.
* Both participants (each student) should speak in the presentation. Speaking times would be ideally equal, but make sure that each student speaks for at least one minute!

**Due Date**: **March 11th and March 12th** (All projects must be prepared by Wednesday; the order will be chosen randomly to be fair, so be ready both Wednesday and Thursday! ☺)

**Grading Rubric: The American Dream Project**

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| **CATEGORY** | **A (50-45 pts)** | **B (44-40 pts)** | **C (39-35 pts)** | **D-F (34-0 pts)** | **Points** |
| **EFFECTIVENESS OF CONTENT/**  **ORDER OF INFORMATION** | Project includes all needed elements to express content; information is shown in logical order and is highly engaging/effective | Project includes most material listed, lacking in one element; shown in logical order that is effective and mostly engaging | Project is missing several key questions; some information is presented in logical order, somewhat effective in engaging audience | Project is lacking several key elements or more and has little to no logical or effective order |  |
| **CREATIVITY/**  **ORIGINALITY** | Presentation shows considerable originality and creativity; work is engaging and personal | Presentation shows some originality; work may be engaging but not creative/ personal | Presentation shows an attempt at originality and inventiveness on few slides, but less effort involved. | Presentation has little to no creativity; work is not present or simply other’s ideas |  |
| **FORMAT/**  **MECHANICS** | Presentation has no errors; 10-15 slides are present | Presentation has one or two errors; 10-15 slides are present | Presentation has several errors; at least 8 slides are present | Presentation has many errors; less than 8 slides are present |  |
| **PRESENTATION/**  **SPEAKING SKILLS** | Both speakers express ideas very clearly and appear confident; speak clearly for given 2-4 minutes time frame | Speakers express ideas clearly, appear somewhat confident; Speak for at least two minutes during presentation | Speakers express ideas, but miss information or present themselves poorly; at least one minute spent speaking | Speakers do not express ideas well; do not speak for at least one minute during presentation |  |

\*\* Each category is worth 50 points @ 4=200 pts

Total points \_\_\_ / 200