**Argumentative Essay: *The Great Gatsby* and the American Dream**

Using evidence from the texts to support your answer, write an argumentative essay responding to the prompt below.

**Does *The Great Gatsby* portray the “American Dream” as revered and attainable OR corrupt and unreachable? Compare your argument with the modern American Dream and analyze the similarities/differences.**

**Task: You must use the sources listed below to help you in your argument (2 sources total). In addition to the sources I gave you, you must include 2 more sources that you find on your own (At least 4 sources total).**

* An excerpt from “Paradox and Dream” by John Steinbeck
* **One** of the New York Times articles listed below:

1. “**When the Rich-Poor Gap Widens, ‘Gatsby’ Becomes a Guidebook”**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/31/business/31scene.html>

1. **“What Happens to the American Dream in a Recession**

[**http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/08/us/08dreampoll.html**](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/08/us/08dreampoll.html)

1. **“Class and the American Dream”**

[**http://www.nytimes.com/2005/05/30/opinion/class-and-the-american-dream.html**](http://www.nytimes.com/2005/05/30/opinion/class-and-the-american-dream.html)

**In your essay be sure to:**

* Address the prompt by establishing a precise claim
* Support your analysis with textual evidence
* Develop counterclaims with relevant evidence and explain why they are less convincing than the claim
* Order ideas and information logically
* Provide an introduction and conclusion that supports the argument
* Use appropriate English conventions and language suited for the intended audience
* Tie current events into your argument
* Use MLA format (bibliography included)

**Possible Topics to focus on for The American Dream:**

Income inequality

Social class mobility

Educational opportunities

Immigration

Racial Division

Personal Happiness

Political freedoms

Health of the overall population

Gender inequality

Current event/topic you’re focusing on: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Introduction Paragraph**

**Topic Sentence/The Hook** (Hook your reader on your writing with an interesting first sentence)

**Background Information** (In this part of your paragraph you need to provide information about your topic without giving too much away. Make sure you CONNECT your opening statement with your thesis statement by explaining or using examples)

**Thesis Statement** (This sentence is crucial, it tells your reader what your essay is about and your opinion on it)