Research Paper
Honors American Literature

Using at least one text of your choosing (One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, A Raisin in the Sun, Death of a Salesman, The Things They Carried, Fahrenheit 451 or The Great Gatsby) and complementary research, examine how the American Dream has changed over the course of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Requirements:

- 5-8 full pages in length
- At least four total sources
  - One will be the text you choose
  - The other three should be any three of the following (one each): internet, database, book, encyclopedia, magazine
- An appropriate, complete MLA Works Cited page
- At least thirty (30) separate note cards with both direct quotations and paraphrases
  - Note cards can be done using physical cards, Google drive, Google slides, or Noodletools.
- MLA Formatting
  - Double-spaced
  - 12-point Times New Roman
  - A proper heading and header
- A completed outline
- Your rough and final drafts should have at least two cited, integrated quotations per body paragraph
- A short group presentation outlining what you learned through this process about the American dream in your chosen era

Due Dates

Notecards: ____________
Works Cited: ____________
Outline: ____________
Rough Draft: ____________
Final Draft: ____________
Literature Questions

Use the following topics to help guide your research. Depending on the text you choose, your answers will become the focus of each body paragraph. Use your LibGuide (and your teachers) for help.

1920s -- The Great Gatsby
1. The Jazz Age
2. Prohibition
3. The Aftermath of World War I: modernism, disillusionment

1930s-1940s - Death of a Salesman
1. The Great Depression
2. Family expectations, roles
3. Role of men and women in society
4. Salesmen

1950s-1960s - A Raisin in the Sun
1. Harlem Renaissance
2. Social/Economic Hierarchy (white privilege, housing)
3. Desegregation of Schools
4. The Role of Family in the 1950s and 1960s or now

1950s - Fahrenheit 451
1. Censorship and the role of Mass Media (the invention of mass market television)
2. McCarthyism & The Red Scare

1950s-1960s - One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest
1. The Hippie Movement
   a. Ken Kesey and the Merry Pranksters
   b. The Beat Generation
2. Conformity

1960s-1970s - The Things They Carried
1. The Vietnam War (or another war)
   a. Impact on American civilians
   b. Impact on soldiers and soldiers’ families
   c. Political impacts
   d. The Vietnam War draft
2. The Role of Media
   a. How does the media affect people?
   b. Power of Government (Lyndon B. Johnson)
American Dream Brainstorm

Before you start analyzing the American Dream, you first have to decide what the American Dream is. Use the following space to brainstorm this idea, using the following questions for help.

1. When you picture the American Dream for yourself, what do you see?

2. Do you think your American Dream is similar to other people’s? Why/Why not?

3. What is so great about the American Dream that people immigrate to this country to achieve it? What does it offer these people?

4. What are some factors that cause people’s view of the American Dream to differ from one another?

5. Do all people have equal access to the dream? Why?
**Literature Brainstorm**

Now that you've discussed your own opinions of the American Dream, let's try to brainstorm significant events and connections in your chosen text. Choose one of the texts from page 2 and respond briefly to the following prompts. You'll then write two-three paragraphs analyzing what your text shows about the American dream, noting specific strengths and weaknesses for characters looking to achieve it, as well as obstacles characters face in doing so. These two-three paragraphs should feature at least two quotations per body paragraph. This, along with pages 3 and 4, will be your first three grades for the research paper process.

1. Who are the main characters in your book? Give a brief description of each.

2. What would you say is the climax of the book?

3. What are the themes, or lessons, of the book?

4. What do you think your chosen book says about the American Dream? Why?