American Dream Synthesis Essay

English III

Mr. Fox

Synthesis is “the act of combining ideas from different sources to create, express, or support a new idea. Your assignment is to synthesize three-to-five sources and your own observations to defend, challenge, or qualify the statement that America still offers access to the American Dream to “the tired, the poor, and the huddled masses.” This question requires you to integrate a variety of sources (3-5) into a coherent, well-written argumentative essay. Be sure to use quotations and paraphrases from each of your sources and to employ your own observations to support your position. The minimum length for your essay is five paragraphs. The essay must be in correct MLA format, with a “Works Cited” page, and proper documentation throughout the text of the essay. There is an online handbook for MLA style documentation at this link: 


You will be given a handout on the “Five-Paragraph Essay.” Use it if it helps you to make sure the structure of your paper is acceptable. You will also be given a sample essay written by a former student in this class. Use it as a model for format and for organizing your essay. You will also be given an annotated version of the sample essay, which we will go over in class, highlighting the things the essay does correctly, and why they are done this way. Finally, you will be given a copy of the grading rubric that I will use to grade your essay. Be sure to look over it and check the elements of an “excellent” essay.
American Dream Essay

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Schedule

Day 1: Paper Explanation:

  Define Synthesis

  Establish format and length requirements

  Hand out Five Paragraph Essay sheet

  Hand out Sample Essay and Annotated Sample Essay and review it as a class

  Hand out Grading Rubric and Review it

  Write Thesis Statements: “They Say, I Say” model.

Day 2: Work on Rough Draft in Class

Day 3: Peer Review of Rough Drafts

Day 4: Computer Lab Day (Date will depend on lab availability)

Day 5: (One Week after Lab Day) Due Date for Essay