# Essay# 2: The American Dream:

# Fact or Fiction?

## ***Please see semester schedule for due dates.***

Is the American Dream still alive? Form an opinion whether or not the American Dream does exist and what its definition really is. You will be researching this topic further with research (at least three articles, essays, or pieces of research). The other sources may be any print source, a website, blog, video, or other electronic source, **but at least** **one must be from our library databases**. Do not use a dictionary or Wikipedia as an academic source. Use more than one quotation from each source. Use Google to start researching. Be sure to consider the reliability and credibility of your sources.

Respond based on what you feel the elements of this American Dream are. They could be a job, education, a house, medical care, safety, liberty. Your thesis should reflect the elements you feel are part of the American Dream. Your definition must have relevant examples, explanations, comparisons, descriptions, or factual support. Further, explore the causes and effects of recent events that may support either your definition or the opposition’s definition of “American Dream.”

For examples of recent articles on the topic please see:

http://money.usnews.com/money/personal-finance/articles/2012/09/25/is-the-american-dream-dead

http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/feb/11/hagelin-is-the-american-dream-dead/?page=all

**SPECS** (If your paper fails to meet any of the required specifications, I will not accept it.)

* Suggested length of 3-4 pages in 12pt., Times New Roman, MLA format, **Works Cited** page
* Properly formatted and cited quotations with parenthetical citations (see pages the OWL for help or Library)
* Prewriting, Outline, and Annotated Rough Draft (Process!)
* No use of first person (I, me, mine, etc.)
* Submit to Turnitin.com on due date

**On peer editing day bring a copy of your typed complete rough draft.**

**Rubric and Points:**

1. **Thesis , Process, Response to Prompt (20 points)**
2. **Organization, Support, and Content Development (20 points)**
3. **Style, Diction, and Voice (20 points)**
4. **Grammatical Soundness and Mechanics (20 points)**
5. **Critical, Analytic, and Evaluative Elements (20 points)**