

The American Dream Project

This project will ask you to examine the American Dream and its development over the past 60+ years. Each of you will be individually responsible for completing a five-page paper done in stages.

Stage 1: Within an assigned group, determine which person will be responsible for which decade (50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's, 2000's). This will create groups of about 6 people for each decade.

Stage 2: Choose a person to interview who came of age during your particular decade. (Coming of age can be defined as the time when a person becomes independent of his/her parents.) Interview that person in order to determine how he/she defined the American Dream at that time. The focus of your interview should be to gather information about the concept of the American Dream during that decade. Include in your interview specific identifying information about this person (i.e. gender, age, ethnicity, religion, social class, etc.). NOTE: you may remove your interviewee's name if he/she requests.

Stage 3: Write a two page* paper that summarizes the interview and discusses what you have learned from the interview. **Due date:** _____

Stage 4: Bring your paper to class on _____ and meet with the other 5 students who interviewed people of the same decade. You will spend the period in conversation, sharing your interviews and perceptions and attempting to draw some significant conclusions about the American Dream for your particular decade.

Stage 5: Write two more pages* that discuss what you have learned from the conversation. This should be a general commentary on the meaning of the American Dream for that particular decade.

Stage 6: Write yet another page* in which you discuss your own definition of the American Dream today. Does this dream have meaning for you? Why or why not? **Due date for entire 5-page paper:** _____.

* page= typed, doubled spaced