

Character study – Which of the characters depict the “real” American Dream?

Criteria: Now that we have evaluated some of the “definitions” of the American Dream (both from the readings and our own thoughts) I want you to think about the two novels we have been reading: *Death of a Salesman* and *The Great Gatsby*. According to what you think the true definition of the American Dream is, I want you to choose at least three characters from the two readings and explain *why* these characters demonstrate the fulfillment (or at least the desire to do so) of the American Dream. While responding to this question in a two-page typed essay, think about some of the character’s goals in the story. Are they obtained? Are they realistic? Why or why not? What do these characters value most? At what point in the story do these characters fulfill their idea of the American Dream and the ideal “American way of life?”

Standards Addressed:

Apply word analysis and vocabulary skills to comprehend selections (C)

Apply reading strategies to improve understanding and fluency (C)

Read and interpret a variety of literary works (C)

Comprehend a broad range of reading materials (C)

Use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and structure (C)

Compose well-organized and coherent writing for specific purposes and audiences (C)

Communicate ideas in writing to accomplish a variety of purposes (C)

Criterion	5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point
Choice of three characters	Student chooses three characters pursuing Dream	Student's three characters not always pursuing Dream	Poor choice of three characters; Student only chooses to explain 2 characters	Student focuses on 1 character	Student focuses on one character that does not pursue Dream
Support for choosing characters	Ample support from book, notes, class discussions, outside sources is provided	Ample support is provided, but not for all three of the characters discussed	Support is provided, but student is only repeating back learned information; no analysis/synthesis of information	Student provides very weak support, shows lack of effort on assignment	Student provides very little, if any support
Understands and addresses knowledge of literary elements in novels	Several literary elements are discussed and tied into examples	A few literary examples are discussed and tied into examples	Student gives examples, but does not show understanding of literary elements of the novels	Student lists literary examples, but does not show understanding of literary elements from specific novels	No attempt was made by student to show they understand the concept of literary elements
Mechanics	0-1 errors found	2-3 errors found	4-5 errors found	6-7 errors found	8 or more errors found

SCORE : _____/20