**American Dream Essay Prompts**

*Directions: Select one of the following prompts and write a five paragraph essay in response. You should include an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion.*

1. What is the American Dream? What does it take to achieve this dream? Who determines one’s success in the dream? Compare and contrast at least two perspectives on the American Dream and discuss each of these three questions from each perspective.

2. Some individuals believe that the American Dream cannot be achieved by all people. Those who believe this say that our culture contains too many roadblocks and obstacles, such as prejudice, poverty, and social inequality. Others believe that America is the “land of opportunity” and that if you dream it, you can achieve it. In your essay, take a position on this question. You may write about either one of the two points of view given, or you may present a different point of view on the question. Use specific reasons and examples from the texts we’ve read in class to support your position.

3. When our society talks about "The American Dream," what do we mean? What are the key aspects of the American Dream today and where did they come from? How is this definition reflected in the various texts we have read and discussed in class? Use at least three texts to support your ideas of which at least one must be a poem.

4. As we have seen in various texts, not everyone achieves the American Dream, making it more a dream than a reality. What are some of today’s obstacles to achieving the American Dream? Which groups of people have or have had trouble attaining "The American Dream"? Why? Use at least three texts to support your ideas of which at least one must be a poem.

5. The idea of the American Dream is as old as the country itself. However, America is a nation defined by change as well. As America has changed so has its dream. Overtime, how has the perception of the American Dream changed? Use at least three texts to support your ideas of which at least one must be a poem.

6. Many people feel that the American Dream is dead in modern society. Why do they feel this way? How has society changed and how have those changes affected the possibility of achieving the American Dream? Use at least three texts to support your ideas of which at least one must be a poem.