

Argumentative Essay: *The Great Gatsby* and the American Dream

Context: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald was an “icon of its time.” The novel discusses topics that were important, controversial and interesting back in 1920’s America. It is an exploration of the American Dream as it exists in a corrupt period of history.

Task: Read and discuss the following:

- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- An excerpt from “Paradox and Dream” by John Steinbeck
- The New York Times article, “When the Rich-Poor Gap Widens, ‘Gatsby’ Becomes a Guidebook”

Using evidence from the texts to support your answer, write an argument essay responding to the prompt below.

Prompt

Does *The Great Gatsby* portray the American Dream as revered and attainable OR corrupt and unreachable?

In your essay be sure to:

- Address the prompt by establishing a precise claim
- Support your analysis with textual evidence
- Develop counterclaims with relevant evidence and explain why they are less convincing than the claim
- Order ideas and information logically
- Provide an introduction and conclusion that supports the argument
- Use appropriate English conventions and language suited for the intended audience
- Use APA format for citations

Fitzgerald, F. S. (1995). *The Great Gatsby*. New York: Scribner Paperback Fiction.

Frank, R. H. (2006) "Economic Science; When the Rich-Poor Gap Widens, 'Gatsby' Becomes a Guidebook." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/31/business/31scene.html?_r=0

Steinbeck, J. (1966). *Paradox and Dream*. New York: Viking Press. Retrieved from <http://jenaconti.wordpress.com/2012/02/07/paradox-and-dream/>

***The Great Gatsby* and the American Dream...**

Use bullet points to give at least 2 examples (evidence from the novel) for each column.

American Dream = revered and attainable	American Dream = corrupt and unreachable

New York Times article

American Dream = revered and attainable	American Dream = corrupt and unreachable

“Paradox and Dream”

American Dream = revered and attainable	American Dream = corrupt and unreachable

BODY PARAGRAPH #1

Topic sentence	
Evidence from <i>The Great Gatsby</i> (include page #)	
Evidence from <i>The Great Gatsby</i> (include page #)	
Evidence/analysis from an article (include source)	
counterclaim	

BODY PARAGRAPH #2

Topic sentence	
Evidence from <i>The Great Gatsby</i> (include page #)	
Evidence from <i>The Great Gatsby</i> (include page #)	
Evidence/analysis from an article (include source)	
counterclaim	

BODY PARAGRAPH #3

Topic sentence	
Evidence from <i>The Great Gatsby</i> (include page #)	
Evidence from <i>The Great Gatsby</i> (include page #)	
Evidence/analysis from an article (include source)	
counterclaim	

