

(read for 11/30) American Myth Editorial Assignment

✓ Published


 Edit

⋮

American Mythology Editorial Assignment

Write an editorial that describes your personal experience with a myth of the American Dream. In this context, a “myth” should be thought of as a recurrent theme, belief, or assumption related to the American dream that the country struggles to realize.

This assignment will help you to practice:

- applying pathos using narrative techniques you developed writing the Profile essay;
- using logos (presenting a logical case for your opinions using appropriate evidence and reasoning to support your argument);
- developing ethos (presenting a clear and compelling authorial voice that instills trust by using credible sources and relating to ethical principles);
- refining your grasp of [writing an editorial/opinion piece](https://canvas.colorado.edu/courses/93677/files/71338800?wrap=1)
(<https://canvas.colorado.edu/courses/93677/files/71338800?wrap=1>). 
(https://canvas.colorado.edu/courses/93677/files/71338800/download?download_frd=1) ;
- presenting ideas to a diverse audience; and
- identifying and addressing outside perspectives that differ from your opinion and/or experiences.

Prompt:

Think about how American ideals regarding work, family, relationships, justice, safety, equality, merit, individualism, and opportunity have influenced your life and perspectives about the American dream.

Choose ONE American ideal, describe how it’s viewed by others, and make an arguable claim about it. Use evidence from relevant personal experiences, interviews, class readings, cultural artifacts (movies, stories, books, songs, memes, legends, etc.), and logical reasoning to support your claim. Persuade your readers to appreciate and/or agree with your opinions while acknowledging alternative views and convincing them that your view is the most sensible.

Essay Length and Guidelines:

500-750 words (2-4 double-spaced pages, 12-point font, 1” margins). Create a title using “my,” “me,” or “I” that announces both your topic and purpose; for instance, “What Reality TV Taught Me About American Meritocracy,” “Where’s Our Wakanda? Why *Black Panther* Inspires My Dreams for American Social Justice,” “I Didn’t Pull Myself Up by The Bootstraps and Neither Did You,” or “Why My American Dream Doesn’t Include a Car, Kids, or Buying a House.”

- Use specific examples from texts, personal experience, cultural artifacts, and class discussions to illustrate your point. These may be quotes, statistics, facts, anecdotes, analogies, scenes, characters, etc. (Be sure to cite all of your sources using MLA or APA style)
- SHOW your audience your intended meaning rather than telling them what to see.
- Revise your paper after you’ve reflected on what you’ve said:
 - think about your main idea and how you’ve articulated it for readers; and

- read aloud to catch word choice and sentence style problems.
- Proofread for typos, spelling, and punctuation errors once you've completed ALL revisions

Points 100
Submitting Nothing

Due	For	Available from	Until
Dec 19	Everyone	-	-

+ [Rubric](#)