The Great Gatsby
Research Paper

Questions to consider
- What is the “American Dream”?  
- Is the American Dream accessible to all?  
- How does one’s social class and background affect one’s ability to achieve the American Dream?  What about race, ethnicity or gender?  
- Does hard work always result in success?  
- Do money and success go hand in hand?  
- In what way were the people of the 1920’s in particular challenged with achieving the American Dream?  
- Does F.Scott Fitzgerald in his novel The Great Gatsby discount the American dream, or does he express the hope that the American Dream is alive?

Assignment
Now that you have read the Great Gatsby, think about what the author was trying to say about the American Dream. Further, do you agree with the author’s view of the state of the American Dream? And does the time period in which one lives influence the attainability of the American Dream.

You will read several assigned pieces for background information and annotate them as you think about your position on these questions.

You will then have the option of searching for more information, or just stick to the sources that I have given you. You must choose 3 in addition to the book to make your argument.

Requirements
3-5 pages (double-spaced, typed, size 12 font)
A strong claim
Evidence that supports that claim
MLA Format
Cite Gatsby: 2 entries (paraphrase or quote)
Cite 3 other sources at least once
Works cited page

Week 1
- Read the and annotate the biographical background on F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Read and annotate the Declaration of Independence
- Read and annotate the American Dream summary from the Library of Congress
- Read and annotate the opinions from CLIO
- Read and annotate the article “Achieving the American Dream Fades as Certainty for Many”
Week 2

- Create a thesis: start as a question and then answer it. The question and answer should be open to argument – it should express an opinion.
- Create a turnitin account

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- In the library, review the libguides on how to cite
- Check out other sources (optional, but feel free to browse)
- Create your works cited page, including Gatsby and any sources that you plan to use
- Start to plan your paper
- Write your introduction. The claim should go at the end of the introduction
- Outline the body. Each body paragraph should have a topic sentence. Plan which sources will be cited in each body paragraph.
- Last chance to gather evidence from the Gatsby books – I must return them. Be sure to take down page #'s for quotes and paraphrases.

Week 4

- Submit to turnitin and turn in a hard copy. We have two more days in the library.