

American Dream Portfolio

To demonstrate your understanding of the American Dream, you will create your own American Dream portfolio. It should include the following:

1. Soundtrack
 - a. Select at least one song that portray some aspect of the American Dream—someone seeking something that will make him/her happy, someone who has a vision of what success will look like, etc.
 - b. Write one paragraph clearly explaining the lyrics' connection to the American Dream.
2. Art
 - a. Select one image (painting, photograph, drawing, comic, etc.) that is in some way a manifestation of the American Dream.
 - b. In a well-organized paragraph, explain the connection between the image you selected and one of the images we discussed in class.
3. Media
 - a. Select at least two print advertisements that are in some way a manifestation of the American Dream.
 - b. Include one contemporary ad and one from another decade.
 - c. Write one paragraph about each ad in which you identify the audience that was being targeted and any rhetorical or persuasive techniques being used, discuss the values that the advertisers were trying to appeal to, and explain how the ad represents the American Dream for that particular epoch.
4. Film
 - a. Select a film that explores the idea of the American Dream in some way. The connection may be overt, or it may be subtle.
 - b. In a well-organized paragraph, explain how the film serves as an exploration of the American Dream.
5. Literature
 - a. Select one piece of literature (poem, essay, play, short story, or novel) that explores the idea of the American Dream in some way. The connection may be overt, or it may be subtle.
 - b. For your literature selection, write at least one paragraph in which you explain how the work serves as an exploration of the American Dream.
6. Quotes
 - a. Collect at least five quotes on the American Dream. Find at least two quotes of each type (utopic/dystopic).
 - b. Choose the one quote you feel best reflects your own idea of the American Dream, and explain in a well-written paragraph why it resonates with you.
7. Product
 - a. Use the medium of your choice to create a representation of the American Dream, either utopic or dystopic. Examples include, but are not limited to the following: write a song, draw a picture, create a collage, paint a painting, write a poem, or create a short film.
 - b. Make sure that your product is clearly connected to the American Dream and our lessons. Likewise, it should be of such quality that it is clear to the viewer or reader that you dedicated thought and time to its production.

American Dream Student Portfolio Rubric

Category	5	4	3	2	1	Notes
Content	Portfolio contains precise examples of all required elements	Portfolio contains precise examples of most required elements	Portfolio contains precise examples of some required elements	Portfolio contains poor examples of required elements	Portfolio contains poor examples of all required elements and/or is missing elements	
Selections	Selections clearly reflect the idea of the American Dream, demonstrating the student's deep and thorough understanding of the concept and its application	Selections reflect the idea of the American Dream, demonstrating the student's understanding of the concept and its application	Selections generally reflects idea of the American Dream, demonstrating the student's general knowledge of the concept and its application	Selections fail to accurately reflect the idea of the American Dream, demonstrating the student's limited knowledge of the concept and its application	Selections fail to accurately reflect the idea of the American Dream, demonstrating the student's lack of knowledge of the concept and its application or selections are missing	
Writing	All written components are thorough, thoughtful, and clearly demonstrate understanding of the American Dream	Most written components are thorough, thoughtful, and clearly demonstrate understanding of the American Dream	Some written components are thorough, thoughtful, and demonstrate general understanding of the American Dream	Some written components are thorough, thoughtful, but demonstrate limited understanding of the American Dream	Written components are inadequate or shallow, and fail to display the student's understanding of the American Dream or components are missing	
Presentation	Portfolio is exceptionally well presented in a manner that is aesthetically pleasing, highly creative, and/or well organized	Portfolio is well presented in a manner that is visually appealing, creative, and/or organized	Portfolio is fairly well presented and has some elements that are visually appealing, creative, and/or organized	Portfolio is not well presented and most elements are not visually appealing, creative, and/or organized	Portfolio is poorly presented and lacks visual appeal, creativity, or organization	
Product	The product demonstrates complete mastery of the content and a significant investment of time and/or attention to detail	The product demonstrates near mastery of the content and a significant investment of time and/or attention to detail	The product demonstrates general understanding of the content and an investment of time and/or attention to detail	The product demonstrates a limited understanding of the content and a limited investment of time and/or attention to detail	The product demonstrates a lack of understanding of the content and little investment of time and/or attention to detail	