The American Dream Unit Paper  
English III Honors  
Mrs. Livingston

All papers must

1. Adequately answer the prompt posed using at least three of the following sources from the American Dream unit.
   1. *The American Dream* by Cullen (See your chart/graphic organizer)
   2. *The Great Gatsby* by Fitzgerald\*\*
   3. “Hollywood Dreams of Wealth, Youth, and Beauty” by Mondello
   4. “The Fallacy of Success” by Chesterton
   5. “I Hear America Singing” by Walt Whitman

\*\*REQUIRED to use as a source in your paper

\*\*When writing your paper, please punctuate titles as listed above! Example: *The Great Gatsby* will be italicized, and “I Hear America Singing” will be in quotation marks when used in your paper.

1. Use MLA formatting and guidelines. Be sure to review all writing lessons before submission.
2. Include in-text citations (parenthetical citations).
3. Integrate a minimum of 2 different sources in each body paragraph.
4. Include a variety of syntax and grade-appropriate writing.
5. Use the chunk method of paragraph writing to ensure proper commentary, evidence, topic/conclusion sentences, etc.
6. Include a strong thesis statement and coherent introductory/conclusion paragraphs.
7. Share with me at [mdlivingston@jmcss.org](mailto:mdlivingston@jmcss.org).
8. Include 2-3 pages of content.

**Option 1: How do the various texts in the unit treat the topic of the American Dream as described by Cullen?**

To answer this question:

* Summarize the American Dream as described by Cullen and determine two central ideas Cullen develops in *The American Dream*​.
* Review the various texts read in the unit.
* Select at least three texts that agree with, elaborate on, or challenge the central ideas presented by Cullen.
* Compare and contrast Cullen’s ideas of the American Dream to the ideas presented in the selected texts.

Write an explanatory essay in response to the question that conveys complex ideas clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of the various texts. Be sure use proper grammar, conventions, spelling, and grade-appropriate words and phrases. Cite and integrate several pieces of strong and thorough textual evidence while maintaining the flow of ideas.

**Option 2: Write a research-based essay making a claim about how attainable you believe the American dream to be.**

You should support your argument with examples and counterexamples from the literature read throughout the unit.

* When writing the essay, integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, while avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source. Use MLA standard format for citation. To strengthen your writing, use any relevant notes you compiled throughout the unit.
* Once you have compiled your evidence, develop a specific thesis statement.