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## The Future of the American Dream

By Nicole Harrell

**DESCRIPTION/RATIONALE:** English III (11<sup>th</sup> Grade) students will read nonfiction articles and watch videos about the American Dream. They will then use their analysis of their readings and viewings to compose an essay that answers the prompt listed below.

### OBJECTIVES:

*Students will be skilled at...*

- Composing an argument supporting a claim with sufficient, relevant evidence.
- Synthesizing information from several texts and their own experience to determine and evaluate the concept of the American Dream and its future.

### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What is the American Dream?
- Can there be more than one American Dream?
- Is it possible for the American Dream to change without altering American values?

### ASSESSMENT:

- Use a writing process to complete the summative assessment. This process will include
  - Analyzing the prompt with the teacher in class; having a whole-class discussion on the prompt (Prompt: Which future American Scenario—A, B, C, or D—do you



see as being most likely to happen by 2035? How will this scenario affect the American Dream and American values? Explain in detail.)

- Determining a stance and claim for their essay
- Notetaking from the nonfiction texts
- Selecting other current nonfiction texts to use as further support for their claim
- Composing their essay, including appropriate internal documentation
- Revising
- Editing

#### **MATERIALS/HANDOUTS:**

**Origins of the American Dream Article:** <http://people.howstuffworks.com/american-dream.htm>

**Humans Need Not Apply YouTube Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Pq-S557XQU>

**Warren Buffett Video:** <http://money.cnn.com/video/news/economy/2015/04/01/warren-buffett-american-dream.cnnmoney/index.html>

**Warren Buffett Article:** [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/15/opinion/stop-coddling-the-super-rich.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/15/opinion/stop-coddling-the-super-rich.html?_r=0)

**Scenarios A, B, C, D for America:**

<https://columbusfuturists.files.wordpress.com/2015/09/american-ways-scenarios-sept-2015.pdf>

**Is Democratic Socialism the American Dream?:** [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/in-theory/wp/2016/03/23/is-democratic-socialism-the-american-dream/?utm\\_term=.e17d818efa8f](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/in-theory/wp/2016/03/23/is-democratic-socialism-the-american-dream/?utm_term=.e17d818efa8f)

**Expanding the Free Stuff Army: Why Democratic Socialism Does Not Work:**

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/mar/13/robert-knight-democratic-socialism-cannot-work-in/>

**10 Core American Values:** <https://www.andrews.edu/~tidwell/bsad560/USValues.html>

**Bill of Rights:** <https://www.billofrightsintstitute.org/founding-documents/bill-of-rights/>

**Constitution:** [http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution\\_transcript.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_transcript.html)

**Declaration of Independence:**

[http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration\\_transcript.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_transcript.html)

