

What is the American Dream?

American history and literature are the continuing story of the human experience. As we all define and pursue our own dreams, we are creating the future of our nation and the world.

Project Description: Students will create a multimedia product on the American Dream. You will choose one of the following roles. With this role, you are to capture the American Dream and put it into some form of multimedia presentation. You will explain why you feel your product represents the American Dream. Give serious thought and honest expression to the hopes and dreams for the future. For inspiration, you may wish to view the Wall of Dreams at <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/lessons/american-dream/students/wallofdreams.html>.

Some forms of multimedia include: public/private websites, podcasting, digital narratives, video documentaries, slide shows, oral presentations, booklets, or newspapers, and museum display.

Roles:

Photographer – With your artful eye, you capture the images of the AD. You will design a photo essay (10 pics) that shows the AD. Show how the dream has been affected by time, cultural influences and significant historical events. (You can put the photo essay to music as well-not required.)

Poet – Using your poetic grasp of language, you seek out the heart and soul of the AD. Create a poet's notebook that shows the AD. Your notebook includes samples of your poetry and other poems that shows how the dream has been affected by time, cultural influences, and significant historical events. (9 poems and 1 original poem by you.)

Comedian – You find the irony in the AD. Write a standup comic script, create a political cartoon or comic strip, or create an animation video that expresses irony or the humorous side of the AD.

Musician – With your ear for melody, you play the music of the AD. Write the sheet music or record music that characterizes the AD based upon your research.

Be sure to cross time, cultural influences, and significant historical events. Print the lyrics as well (10 songs.) Put onto a cd format.

Reporter – With your craft of writing, you report and chronicle the events which shape the AD. Write a news article that reports the results of your research on the AD. (Article includes: title, who what, when, where, and how). Your news articles describes the events that have shaped the AD through the decades. (10 events.)

Artist – With your brush, you paint the AD. Paint a picture that represents the AD in a form such as surrealism and how the dream has been affected by time, cultural influences, and significant historical events.