

## Modern America Midterm Essay Prep

Use the sheet below to begin preparing for the essay portion of the exam. BEFORE THE EXAM, you should then use this to create a **ONE-SIDED, 1-PAGE OUTLINE** for the essay. You may use your outline during the essay portion of the exam.

**Essay Question:** From newly freed slaves to immigrants (and even as far back as the Founding Fathers), much of this past semester has been spent looking at different groups and their attempts to pursue different ideas of the “American Dream.” The specific goals (“dreams”) of the groups varied as much as their actual experiences, but similarities still existed. **What has the “American Dream” meant to different groups we’ve studied and how successful were each of these groups in achieving their dreams in the time in question?**

Choose *three* groups and trace their progress from the late 1800s-1950s (incorporating evidence from *multiple units*.) Be sure to define the American Dream as a concept AND explain how the Dream applied to each of the three groups. Your body paragraphs should address each group’s goals, situations, challenges, and successes over the time in question.

**Intro (SUPER SHORT):**

DEFINE: “American Dream”

THESIS (should answer the bolded question above):

**Paragraph #1:**

Group: \_\_\_\_\_

3 units covered: \_\_\_\_\_

TOPIC SENTENCE:

EVIDENCE:

BACKGROUND CONTEXT:

Define the “American Dream” (goals) of this group:

Background info on their situation:

EVIDENCE (3-4 detailed, specific examples that draw from **multiple units** and which address any challenges this group faced and/or successes they experienced):

**Paragraph #2:**

**Group:** \_\_\_\_\_

3 units covered: \_\_\_\_\_

TOPIC SENTENCE:

EVIDENCE:

BACKGROUND CONTEXT:

Define the “American Dream” (goals) of this group:

Background info on their situation:

EVIDENCE (3-4 detailed, specific examples that draw from **multiple units** and which address any challenges this group faced and/or successes they experienced):

**Paragraph #3:**

**Group:** \_\_\_\_\_

3 units covered: \_\_\_\_\_

TOPIC SENTENCE:

EVIDENCE:

BACKGROUND CONTEXT:

Define the “American Dream” (goals) of this group:

Background info on their situation:

EVIDENCE (3-4 detailed, specific examples that draw from **multiple units** and which address any challenges this group faced and/or successes they experienced):