Step into My Shoes

An Exploration of the American Dream

The American Dream is many things to many people. To some it is the pursuit of a successful career and the development of a stable, happy family life. To others it is simply to live freely in a Democratic society. What is the American Dream to you? How does your past and present shape your vision for this dream? **Do we create or find our true selves?**

In order to work through this idea and these questions, you will (products are in **bold**):

* reflect on where you’ve been, where you are, and where you’re going
* collect items or photos that represent these parts of your life
* consider various viewpoints on The American Dream
* analyze characters in *The Great Gatsby* in their pursuits of The American Dream
* determine what The American Dream is to you & represent that with images and/or symbols
* **write justifications for the items, photos, and/or symbols that you include**
* **create a display using a shoe box that encompasses these ideas and concepts, thus allowing others to “step into your shoes”**
* **develop a thesis statement that represents your conclusions**

**Checklist: Step into My Shoes**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Task(s)** | **Date Completed**  **Teacher Initial** |
| **1** | **Intro Writing on Essential Q’s** |  |
| **2** | **Consideration of Various A.D. Ideas**  **A.D. Statement Draft** |  |
| **3** | **Outside of the Box**  **Character Analysis** |  |
| **4** | **Past Representation + Justification**  **Character Analysis** |  |
| **5** | **Present Representation + Justification**  **Character Analysis** |  |
| **6** | **Future Representation + Justification**  **Character Analysis** |  |
| **7** | **Peer Review + Critical Feedback**  **Personal Reflection on Feedback** |  |
| **8** | **Updates as Needed**  **Final Submissions** |  |
| **9** | **Graded Feedback from Teacher(s)**  **Revisions as Needed** |  |

**Table of Contents: Step into My Shoes**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Component** | **Items/Photos/Objects Included** |
| **Outside of box, including thesis statement** |  |
| **Inside of box – past** |  |
| **Inside of box – present** |  |
| **Inside of box – future** |  |

**Note: there must be a minimum of 3 items/objects/photos included for each section and each must have a written justification for a total of 12.**