

# The American Dream

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*

*-The United States Declaration of Independence*


These words, written in 1776, provide the simplest explanation for the idea of *The American Dream*. In essence, these words tried to emphasize that all people should be allowed to have equal access to a good life.

In 2007, Forbes magazine ran a series of articles that explored the idea of *The American Dream*. Part one of the series asked 60 well known and successful people what they think of this idea.

For **Part 1** of this assignment, go to the website listed below. Near the bottom of the page are the people interviewed for the magazine's feature. You will need to click on 5 of them and complete the chart for each one. Be sure to use well-constructed short answers on the chart.

[http://www.forbes.com/2007/03/20/american-dream-oped-cx\\_de\\_dream0307\\_0322dream\\_land.html](http://www.forbes.com/2007/03/20/american-dream-oped-cx_de_dream0307_0322dream_land.html)

<b>Who is the person and why is he or she someone to whom teens should listen?</b>	<b>What did he or she say about <i>The American Dream</i>?</b>	<b>Do you agree with what he or she said? Why or why not?</b>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		



**Part 2** of this assignment is going to ask you to make some observations about The American Dream. Read the below questions and answer each in a complete, well-constructed short response.

1. Based on your reading, how would you define *The American Dream*?

2. Is *The American Dream* something everyone can achieve?

3. What is your *American Dream*? What will you need to do in order to achieve this?