Introduction to the American Dream Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Block \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Places People Symbols Concepts

Before doing any research, what is your personal definition of The American Dream?

Locate and record a classic definition of The American Dream through an online/dictionary search. Cite your source.

Do you think that the classic definition comes true very often? Why or why not?

How has the concept of the American Dream shifted in the past several years (or decades)? What do you think has caused this change?

Extra Credit - Interview Questions on back

American Dream Extra Credit – DUE by THURSDAY, September 24th

Interview someone from an older generation about their thoughts of “The American Dream.” **Choose at least 5** of the questions below or create some of your own. Record his/her answers on your own paper and write a short reflection of how his or her ideas are different from (or similar to) yours. Remember, **ask someone who is** **willing to talk**; short, simple answers will not make for an interesting interview or reflection.

1. What is your American Dream?
2. What was your American Dream when you were coming of age (18-21)?
3. How is your American Dream different from your parents’ and grandparents’ American Dreams? How is yours different from your children’s American Dreams?
4. How do you think the American Dream has driven America to what it is today?
5. In what ways does our system (political/economic/educational) help make the American Dream easier or harder to achieve?
6. How do you think your background has helped or hindered you achieving the American Dream?
7. In what ways have you accomplished your American Dream?
8. What life experiences or obstacles have altered your American Dream?
9. What would you tell someone who is ready to forget about their American Dream?
10. If you could change your dream and start over, would you?
11. How does a person’s education relate to your idea of The American Dream?
12. How does religion relate to your idea of The American Dream?
13. How does race or ethnicity relate to your idea of The American Dream?
14. How does money (having much, having enough, or having none) affect The American Dream?
15. How does family (marriage, children, grandchildren) relate to your idea of The American Dream?
16. What is your reaction to this quotation: “Most Americans believe that if they work hard all their lives, that if they save their money, then they will be a success. This has been the formula that America has been built on. Work hard, save your money, be thrifty, do the right thing by other people, and there will be rewards out there. Some people call that the American Dream.” Bill Beach
17. What are your thoughts on this quotation: “The American Dream is that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement…It is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position.” James Truslow Adams