

The American Dream: a Fiction

The American Dream is harder to reach than ever before in America, and it continues to become harder by the decade. The American Dream was founded on the fact if one works hard for something, one can live a happy and prosperous life. That person can live with materialistic items as well as providing a livable life for one's children. Sadly, this dream has diminished in America leaving the middle class adult trapped in financial hardship trying to claw out of debt.

Lack of funds, lower wages, and bigger bills, America has been spiraling down this road into turmoil for years. Why stay? "His country is which gives him land, bread, protection, and consequence" (deCrevecoeur). The Dream is dead folks, some just need to wake up from their own fantasy and realise this. Politicians always talk about the topic but, does anything ever change? To the awake Americans the Dream is just something written on a tombstone for other countries to view.

America does not provide the American Dream anymore. The word provide means it can be given to a person or that said person can work to obtain it. Although it is still possible, America is far from providing it. In the essay, "Is the American Dream Still Possible?" David Wallechinsky states that, "...many average Americans are struggling- squeezed by rising costs, declining wages, credit-card debt and diminished benefits." This statement explains how the

steps to achieve the American Dream are getting more difficult by the day. Personally, my grandfather had pension from his work before he passed, providing my grandmother to enjoy her freedoms as an American. Recently informed that my father nor mother will ever receive pension troubled me. I would like to live in a society where I am cared for and helped through hard times, not strangled.

Secondly, the American Dream is misinterpreted by many people across the nation. Advertisements depict the American Dream as something entirely unreachable by today's standard middle class incomes. As shown in the essay, "The Right to Fail," William K. Zinsser states that, "Happiness goes to the man who has the sweet smell of achievement. He is our national idol and everyone else is our national fink." This statement shows how wrong advertisements are conveyed on the topic of the American Dream. This representation of the American Dream is what I believed in before educating myself of the true American Dream. Many middle class families cannot achieve even the reasonable American Dream this country was founded on.

Next, many use the word access as an argument to show the American Dream is still possible. This is simply just a false representation of America today. They can say middle class families have access to everything they need to achieve the American Dream, but simply put, America has lost all the true steps to form the American Dream. As stated again by David Wallechinsky, "...47% say that no matter how hard they work, they cannot get ahead." Getting ahead to me is not living by the paycheck and being able to afford some luxurious things in life. That means almost half have trouble with this issue, proving that America has lost its dream.

Overall, one can only hope financially America prospers like it once was. This so called American Dream driven by a hardworking individual is only a glimpse of the past. I personally will be attempting to live out my American Dream by doing something different, achieving something greater than just hard work. Though it may be difficult, now realizing now how cruel an economy can be, it seems like the best way forward.