

READING WITH THE AMERICAN DREAM

Our first formal process paper is to compare the way that two of the pieces we have read thus far are influenced by the American Dream.

Choose any combination of TWO (2) of the following:¹

- *What Robots We've Become* by Leonard Pitts Jr. (handout)
- *Why Don't We Complain?* by William F. Buckley Jr. (handout)
- Patrick Henry's Speech to the Virginia Convention (p146 in the lit book)
- *The Declaration of Independence* (p153 in the lit book)
- *Young Goodman Brown* by Nathaniel Hawthorne (handout)

Examine and compare how the American Dream is manifested in or influences each of your choices. Remember that the American Dream is not just about money and cars; it is about personal freedom and self determination, individualism and the ability to change your position in society. For many people, that means moving up in the rat race to have a more expensive BMW or a larger home in a better area, but for other people it means the freedom to follow a dream and/or escape the rat race to, as Thoreau put it, “live deep and suck the marrow out of life.” Don’t get trapped into thinking the American Dream is *only* what most people pursue today, especially if you’re looking at any of the older pieces.

Some of this you will do at home, but we will use class time for much of it as well. Be prepared to work on this both in class and at home.

Schedule

Prewriting check: _____ (10 points)

Rough Draft Due: _____ (15 points)

Final Draft Due: _____ (100 points)

¹ All of these works are available on the internet by searching the title and author.