**What you can bring and use on the day of your essay:**

\*Articles

\*Socratic seminar notes

\*Supplementary Text graphic organizer

\*Essay outline

\**The Great Gatsby* book

**Essay Prompt**: In exploring the dark side of the American Dream, Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby* considers the relationship between happiness, success, and wealth. Write an essay in which you take a position regarding the relationship between happiness, success and wealth (ie. The American dream) and compare or contrast Fitzgerald’s critique with your own position. Define what The American Dream and other terms like “happiness” and “success” mean in the context of your discussion. Be sure to construct a **complex thesis**, provide **detailed textual evidence** from the articles we’ve read, your interview, and the novel, and include insightful, **precisely written commentary** explaining **how** your evidence supports your claim.

**Getting Started**

**Step 1:** Think about your own views on the relationship between happiness, success and wealth (The American Dream) and social class.

**Step 2**: Think about how the articles and your interview could support, extend or challenge your own views (see your graphic organizer!) Find evidence to support or challenge your own views (quotes! Highlight them so you can find them!) \*\*Hint: if all articles challenge your own views, you can use these as counterclaims to make your own views stronger!

**Step 3:** Compare and contrast your claim with Fitzgerald’s critique of the American Dream/social class. Think about how he has developed his characters to reveal his views on the American Dream. Find evidence from the book to support your ideas (quotes!)

**Step 4:** Create a basic outline or web in order to plan the organization of your essay and ensure that your evidence supports your argument (if needed).

**Step 5:** See Ms. Lago Wednesday after school if you are still super confused to discuss said confusion!

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| **Grading Scale:**  4 = Above Proficient  3 = Proficient  2 = Developing  1 = Little or no proficiency  **A 4 Essay includes all of the following elements:** |
| Clear, strong thesis statement: arguable and complex |
| Relevant evidence from articles, interviews and novel clearly support thesis (at least 3 pieces of evidence provided). |
| Evidence is introduced fluidly (context and embedding) and connection to thesis and topic sentence is clearly, fully and skillfully developed. |
| Organization: ideas organized within and between paragraphs |
| Few errors in format, grammar, spelling and punctuation (too many errors in this category may result in a deduction of points.) |